

Historic, Archive Document

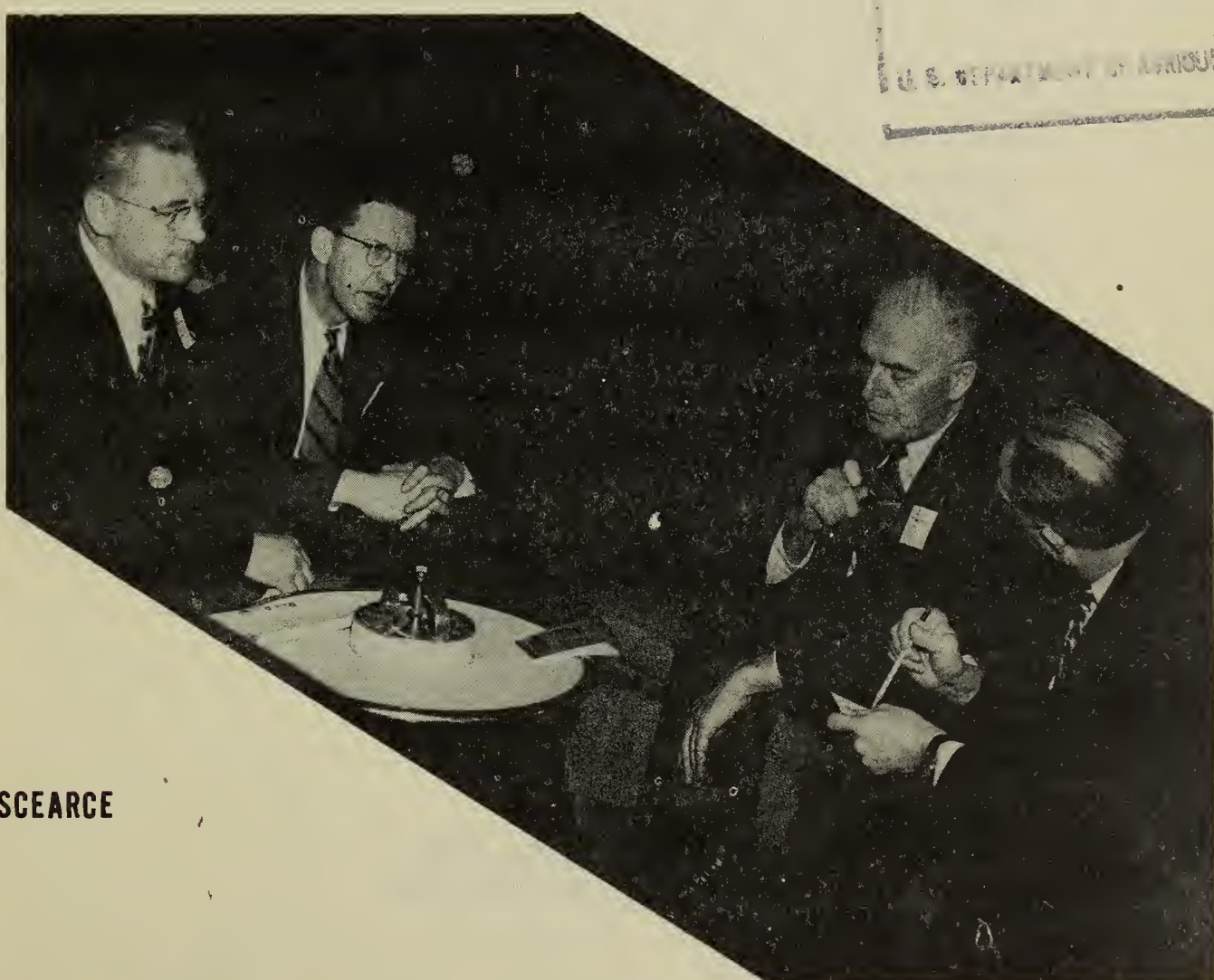
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

166.3
168

162

State Councils and Associations of Farmer Cooperatives 1947

LIBRARY
SEP 30 1948
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



BY JANE L. SCEARCE

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND SERVICE DIVISION
FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORT 117

APRIL 1948

INV. '60

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
I. W. DUGGAN, GOVERNOR

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND SERVICE DIVISION

HAROLD HEDGES, CHIEF

JOSEPH G. KNAPP, ASSOCIATE CHIEF



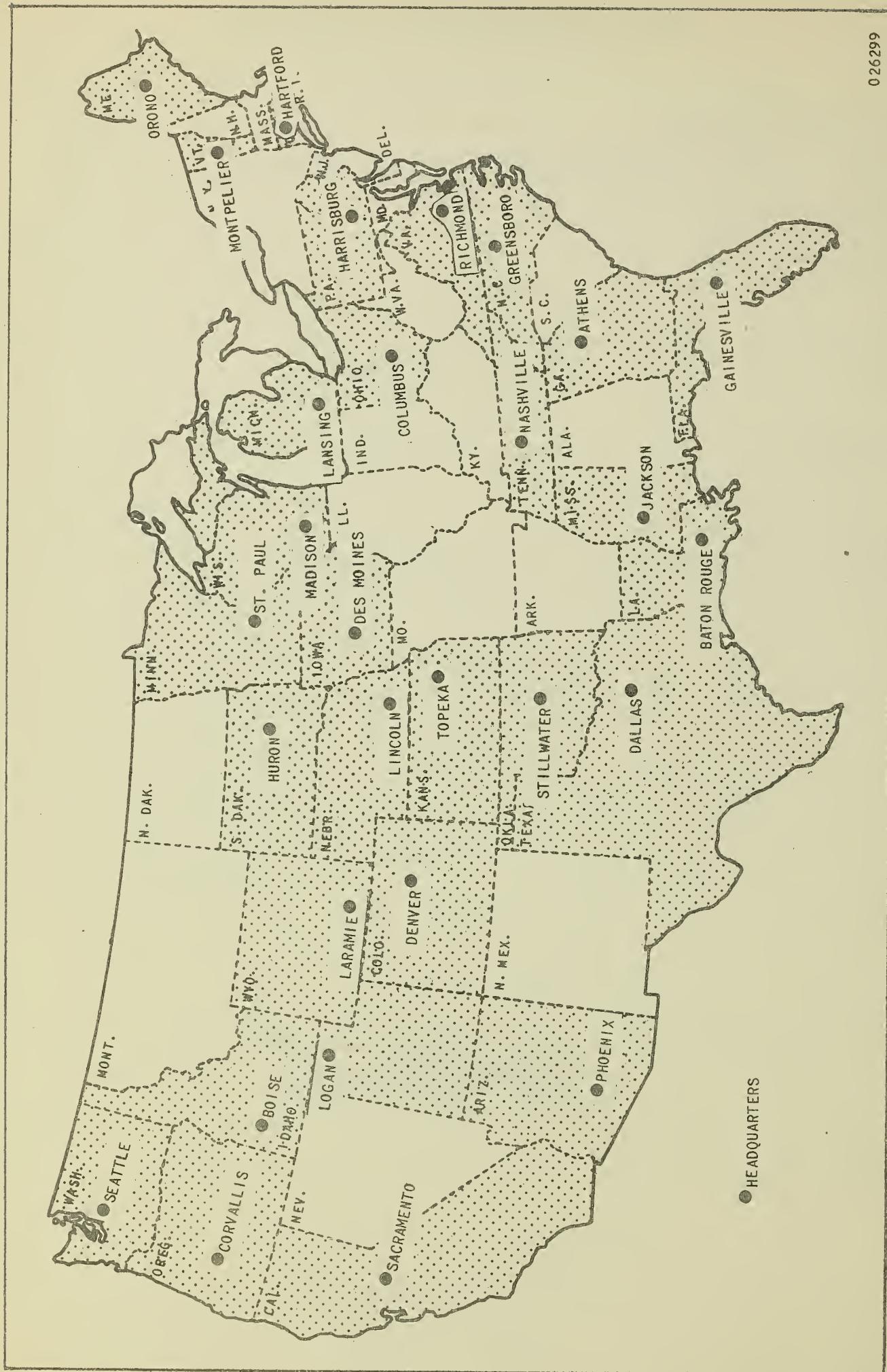
The Cooperative Research and Service Division conducts research studies and service activities relating to problems of management, organization, policies, merchandising, sales, costs, competition, and membership arising in connection with the cooperative marketing of agricultural products and the cooperative purchase of farm supplies and services; publishes the results of such studies; confers and advises with officials of farmers' cooperative associations; and cooperates with educational agencies, cooperative associations, and others in the dissemination of information relating to cooperative principles and practices.



COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE HAD ON REQUEST
WHILE A SUPPLY IS AVAILABLE FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND EXTENSION
FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary and conclusions.....	i
Objectives and methods of operation.....	2
Activities of the State councils.....	5
Educational and informational work.....	5
Public relations activities.....	7
Legislative work.....	7
National councils of farmer cooperatives.....	8
State councils of cooperatives.....	9
Agricultural Council of California.....	9
Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon.....	12
Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative.....	14
Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives.....	18
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council.....	19
Agricultural Conference Board of Virginia.....	21
Idaho Cooperative Council.....	23
Georgia Cooperative Council.....	24
Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina.....	25
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	27
Colorado Cooperative Council, Inc.....	29
Maine Cooperative Council.....	30
Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	31
Wyoming Cooperative Council.....	32
Ohio Council of Farm Cooperatives.....	33
Texas Federation of Cooperatives.....	35
Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	38
Arizona Cooperative Council.....	40
Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	42
Iowa Council of Cooperation.....	43
Kansas Cooperative Council.....	44
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives.....	46
Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	47
Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc.....	49
Wisconsin Association of Cooperatives.....	51
Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.....	53
Mississippi Council of Farmer Cooperatives (AAL).....	57
Minnesota Association of Cooperatives.....	58
Connecticut Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	60
Nebraska Cooperative Council, Inc.....	60
State councils not now active.....	64
Other organizations.....	65



026299

In 1947, State councils in 29 States were providing educational, informational and legislative services for farmer cooperatives and harmonizing their activities. Two councils were functioning in Wisconsin.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

State councils of farmer cooperatives have grown both in number and variety of activities in the past 8 years. They numbered 30 on December 31, 1947 - more than half of these formed since 1940. Many of the newer councils were organized partly to help counteract the vigorous attacks made the last few years on farmer cooperatives.

In the course of their day to day work, both the old and the new councils have helped strengthen and promote the co-ops they represent in each State. They have planned their general campaigns in three fields - education and information, public relations, and legislative. This report gives a State by State description of how each council attacks its job.

Over half the organizations sponsor institutes or cooperative clinics for managers, directors, officers, members, and employees - some individually, others in cooperation with other organizations or agencies. At these, co-op leaders delve into their own problems and listen to speakers from outside who can give them the benefit of other organizations' experiences.

About a third of the councils sponsor contests or programs to get farm boys and girls interested in agricultural cooperation and to prepare them for future jobs with the cooperatives. They use devices such as quizzes, essay and speaking contests, and demonstrations. In addition, several councils have arranged and are sponsoring courses on agricultural cooperation at high schools, universities, colleges, and even at cooperative offices.

To get their story before the public co-op councils use newspapers, magazines, and the radio. Four of them have regular columns in daily or weekly papers and about 15 others send out news releases and articles to cover special stories. Three councils have their own radio programs and 12 or 14 others take part in other broadcasts.

Some of the councils also send out circular letters and bulletins to mailing lists covering general farm organizations, educational agencies, and business groups.

Three of them have on tap in a speakers' bureau a number of qualified people, either from their own group or outside, who can talk to civic meetings, luncheon clubs, labor organizations, bankers' associations, church societies, school gatherings, and various other meeting places of rural and city people. A few arrange banquets, luncheons or joint meetings with businessmen.

In four of the States, councils worked with others to get the governor of the State to proclaim a cooperative week or month to give special recognition to achievements of these farmer associations.

About two-thirds of these State councils are members of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and use it to keep in touch with matters of national interest. About a fourth of them are members of the National Association of Cooperatives and most of these hold membership in both national organizations. To get closer to the grass roots, county cooperative councils have now been organized in six States Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The programs of these county units are closely related to those of the State groups.

The councils have gone out into their own territories to make studies and surveys, publishing results of these in the press and using them in educational programs. Several of them have resulted in concrete action.

For the last phase of their work - the legislative - all but two of the councils carry on some legislative programs. Several have special committees working on this phase who also act as a clearing house for all audit, tax, and legal problems. The job is to see that State legislatures get the co-op side of the story.

These 30 State councils are filling a need in agricultural cooperation. They have broad objectives in front of them - to promote and foster the welfare of farmer cooperatives; to encourage organization of such associations; to spread information about co-ops to the public; to sponsor and support constructive legislation; and to promote education on cooperatives with Federal and State agencies, extension and vocational groups, colleges, and others.

This report shows in detail how many of the more progressive ones have moved a long way toward accomplishing these objectives. Their success has depended, and will in the future depend, on competent and experienced leadership, alert and full time personnel, careful study of a problem, and a smooth working relationship with other groups in the State.

STATE COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

By

Jane L. Searce
Agricultural Economist

Farmer associations early found that there were a number of services necessary to their common welfare which could be obtained better by associations working together. By uniting their efforts they could work for adjustments in freight rates for hauling farm products, strive for more equitable legislation for agricultural cooperatives, and promote a better understanding of farmer cooperation. All were vital to the continuance and progress of agricultural associations.

As more farmer cooperatives were organized, leaders saw the need for State organizations to coordinate their activities and to focus their energies on matters of mutual interest. The first step in this direction was taken on the West Coast nearly 30 years ago.

The Agricultural Legislative Committee of California, now Agricultural Council of California, was organized in December 1919, to represent farmer cooperatives and other farm commodity associations.

The Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon, formed in June 1921, was the first State-wide organization working only for the interest of farmer cooperatives. Five years later, the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Cooperative was set up, and other States soon followed with similar organizations.

Altogether, councils¹ of agricultural associations largely farmer cooperatives, have been formed in 33 States. At the close of 1947, 30 councils remained in operation. Wisconsin, is the only State that has ever had two such organizations functioning, simultaneously. See map on back on contents page.

More than half the councils now operating have been organized since 1940. Nearly two-thirds of them have been set up in the last 10 years, leaving only about one-third with 10 or more years of operation. See table 1.

¹Several of the State organizations have adopted the term "association" rather than "council," but in this discussion all will be referred to as "councils."

NOTE: A survey of the State councils and associations of farmer cooperatives was made by the Cooperative Research and Service Division in 1944, and followed by another in 1947. The purpose of these surveys was to assemble information on the organization features, objectives, and activities of the various State groups for the benefit of these and other groups with similar problems and interests. The information assembled through the earlier survey was presented in Miscellaneous Report 82. This report is based on material from both surveys.

The author expresses appreciation to the officials of the State councils and associations of farmer cooperatives in supplying the information used in preparing this report.

Table 1. - Date organized, years of operation, and number of members and associate members of State councils of cooperatives, December 31, 1947

NAME OF COUNCIL	DATE OR- GANIZED	YEARS IN OPERATION	NUMBER OF	
			MEM- BERS	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Agricultural Council of California ^a	1919	28	35	None
Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon.....	1921	26	55	3
Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative....	1926	21	55	5
Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives..	1926	21	48	None
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council.....	1929	18	7	8
Agricultural Conference Board of Virginia.....	1929	18	50	None
Idaho Cooperative Council.....	1930	17	50	^b None
Georgia Cooperative Council.....	1932	15	14	5
Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina....	1935	12	10	8
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives ^c .	1936	11	80	^b None
Colorado Cooperative Council, Inc. ^d	1937	10	^e -	^e -
Maine Cooperative Council.....	1938	9	28	None
Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	1939	8	50	3
Wyoming Cooperative Council.....	1941	6	20	None
Ohio Council of Farm Cooperatives.....	1942	5	11	None
Texas Federation of Cooperatives.....	1942	5	90	^b None
Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	1942	5	30	5
Arizona Cooperative Council.....	1943	4	^e 13	^e -
Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	1943	4	20	^f 50
Iowa Council of Cooperation.....	1944	3	8	None
Kansas Cooperative Council.....	1944	3	16	None
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives.....	1944	3	153	None
Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	1944	3	10	^b None
Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc.	1944	3	39	None
Wisconsin Association of Cooperatives.....	1944	3	235	None
Connecticut Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	1945	2	^e -	^e -
Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.....	1945	2	156	17
Mississippi Council of Farmer Cooperatives (AAL).	1945	2	99	^b None
Minnesota Association of Cooperatives.....	1945	2	140	None
Nebraska Cooperative Council, Inc.	1946	1	207	17

^aOriginal name was Agricultural Legislative Committee of California. Changed to present name in September 1933.

^bBylaws provide for associate or advisory members.

^cOriginal name was Washington State Cooperative Council. Changed to present name in January 1944.

^dCouncil was reorganized in 1944.

^eNo recent information. Figures, if shown, are for 1944.

^fRepresents 15 organizations.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS OF OPERATION

The objectives of the councils may be summarized as follows:

1. To promote and foster the welfare of farmer cooperatives within a State by bringing together cooperatives and other organizations interested in studying, discussing, and solving mutual problems.

2. To assist and encourage the organization of true farmer cooperatives in every field.
3. To gather and disseminate information concerning the history, development, and growth of cooperatives, their functions, rights, and practices, and their contribution to the welfare of the American people.
4. To sponsor and support constructive legislation which will be valuable to farmer cooperatives and to agriculture in general; to oppose all measures unfair to agricultural cooperation.
5. To assist farmer cooperatives, Federal and State agencies, extension and vocational groups, colleges, and other agencies cooperating in the State in the promotion of educational methods which will benefit the cooperative movement and give the general public an understanding of the principles and practices of cooperatives.

The objectives of all State councils are practically the same, but they differ in methods of functioning. Some limit their membership to farmers' marketing, purchasing, and service cooperatives; a few include general farm organizations with farmer cooperatives; and still others open their membership to all types of cooperatives. Some of the councils confine their membership to local and state-wide cooperatives with farmer members. Others include local and federated types, and a few have only federated associations as members.

Over one-third of the councils have provisions for associate or advisory members. These members may participate in the meetings, and in one or two councils may vote on questions which do not directly affect cooperatives. In 1947 representatives from 80 or 90 organizations, including general farm organizations, departments of universities and colleges, and public agencies interested in furthering cooperatives, served in this capacity.

The councils differ in methods of financing their activities. Some have membership fees based on the gross volume of business done by the member in the fiscal year prior to the council's business year with a minimum and a maximum assessment. Others fix the annual assessment on the number of members in the association and a few have a flat fee. Most of the councils also have a small flat fee for associate members. A few require no fee. Grants and donations are accepted by many of the organizations.

Councils that have full-time employees and carry on extensive programs need large budgets. Those with limited budgets function with part time personnel and carry on fewer activities. The latter group generally have close working relationship with the Extension service, educational institutions, or general farm organizations upon which they depend for assistance in carrying on their work. At the close of 1947, over one-third of the councils had executive secretaries who were giving full time to council activities. See table 2.

Table 2. - Provisions in the setup of the different State councils for conducting business, at the close of 1947

STATE	NAME OF COUNCIL	DIRECTORS		EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS	EXECUTIVE OR PART TIME SECRETARY
		NUMBER	FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS		
Ariz.	Arizona Cooperative Council.....	(a)	(a)	(a)	Part time
Calif.	Agricultural Council of California.....	35	Irregular & annual	11	Executive (a)
Colo.	Colorado Cooperative Council, Inc.....	(a)	(a)	(a)	Part time
Conn.	Connecticut Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	(a)	(a)	(a)	Part time
Fla.	Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	11	Annual	5	Part time
Ga.	Georgia Cooperative Council.....	11	Annual	3	Part time
Idaho	Idaho Cooperative Council.....	b9	Irregular	(b)	Part time
Iowa	Iowa Council of Cooperation.....	7	Irregular	None	Part time
Kans.	Kansas Cooperative Council.....	7	Quarterly & special	None	Executive
La.	Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	7	Annual & special	3	Part time
Me.	Maine Cooperative Council.....	5	Quarterly	None	Part time
Mich.	Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.....	(c)	-	7	Executive
Minn.	Minnesota Association of Cooperatives.....	9	Quarterly & special	3	Executive
Miss.	Mississippi Council of Farmer Cooperatives (AAL).....	9	Annual	4	Part time
Nebr.	Nebraska Cooperative Council, Inc.....	7	Monthly	None	Executive
N. C.	Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina.....	10	Irregular & annual	3	Part time
Ohio	Ohio Council of Farm Cooperatives.....	9	Irregular	5	Part time
Okla.	Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council.....	None	-	5	Part time
Ore.	Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon.....	15	(a)	5	Part time
Pa.	Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives.....	10	(a)	None	Part time
S. D.	South Dakota Association of Cooperatives.....	9	Bimonthly	4	Executive
Tenn.	Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	9	Annual & special	None	Part time
Texas.	Texas Federation of Cooperatives.....	11	Annual	3	Executive
Utah	Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	7	Bimonthly	7	Part time
Vt.	Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc.....	9	Bimonthly	None	Executive
Va.	Agricultural Conference Board of Virginia.....	50	Two or three times a year	9	Part time
Wash.	Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	10	Quarterly	None	Executive
Wis.	Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative.....	55	Irregular & annual	11	Executive
	Wisconsin Association of Cooperatives.....	15	Bimonthly	3	Executive
Wyo.	Wyoming Cooperative Council.....	6	Semiannually	None	Part time

^aNo information obtained.

^bThe board of nine is called the Executive Committee, but function as a board of directors.

^cPolicies and activities are directed by an administrative council acting upon the authority of the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The responsibility for carrying on the business of the different councils rests with the boards of directors and the executive committees. The number of directors range from 5 to 55, but the most frequent numbers are 7 and 9. Over half the councils have executive committees whose duties are to look after the business between board meetings. The committees range in number from 3 to 11 with 3 and 5 being the most frequent numbers. See table 2.

ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE COUNCILS

The first councils were concerned largely with legislative matters. As cooperative associations became more numerous and grew in relative importance, leaders in the cooperative field saw the need for educational work among their associations and for the development of smooth working relationships both between cooperatives and with other organizations.

With the expansion of cooperative interests there was also need for activities in the field of public relations. The general public did not understand the principles and practices of cooperatives, and this was proving harmful to their progress. Thus, educational and informational programs were developed to obtain public approval of the cooperative way of doing business.

At present the activities of the councils can be grouped into three broad categories - educational and informational work among cooperatives, public relations, and work in the field of agricultural legislation, particularly that directly affecting cooperatives. These activities are carried on through meetings, clinics or institutes, news letters and releases, literature, newspapers, radio, short courses, contests, and research. Friendly relationships have been established with civic organizations, labor groups, boys' clubs, State and congressional representatives, and many other public groups.

EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL WORK

About three-fourths of the 26 councils which reported devote from 75 to 90 percent of their activities to educational and informational work, including public relations, and from 10 to 25 percent to legislative work. Of the other one-fourth of the group one council spends most of its time on legislative programs, two devote their entire activities to educational and informational work, and four carry on about equal amounts of educational and legislative work.

Beginning in 1943, a number of the councils have cooperated with the American Institute of Cooperation, banks for cooperatives, State colleges and universities, Extension Service, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives, American Institute of Accountants, general farm organizations, and the Farm Credit Administration in holding cooperative clinics for managers, directors, officers, members and employees of cooperatives. All persons interested in the programs of the cooperatives

are invited to attend. Qualified speakers discuss topics relating to cooperative business and panels of consultants deal with special problems confronting managers, and directors.

The first clinics were held largely on a State basis, but more recently the States in a Farm Credit district have cooperated in a series of meetings. Before these clinics were held, a few of the councils carried on a similar type of institute.

More than one-third of the councils sponsor and arrange courses in cooperative marketing and agricultural cooperation, given in high schools, universities, and colleges, and at some of the cooperatives. Some of the courses are planned for youth groups, others for managers, members, or employees of cooperatives, and others interested in cooperatives.

Local, district, and State-wide contests and programs in agricultural cooperation for farm boys and girls are sponsored by the councils. Most of these are carried on in connection with the regular projects of 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America. About half of the councils have demonstration contests, quizzes, and essay writing and speaking contests for such programs - with small cash prizes or special tours for the winners. Other councils are developing similar programs.

Surveys and studies assemble information for educational purposes and for the press. A number of councils have made surveys of types and location of cooperatives, volume of business, membership, employment practices and activities, and kind and amount of taxes paid. Others have been made to learn the attitudes of farmers and others regarding cooperatives, or how well cooperatives are assuming their responsibility in the community.

Noteworthy achievement in agricultural cooperation is recognized by some of the councils with leaders of youth groups and individuals connected with local associations awarded certificates of appreciation or plaques.

News letters, circular letters, and bulletins are sent to member and nonmember cooperatives. Mailing lists often include general farm organizations, educational agencies, and business



Outstanding service in agricultural cooperation is recognized by some of the councils. Here C. F. Claflin, President of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative presents a certificate of appreciation to Tom L. Bewick for his life-long service to the youth of Wisconsin through 4-H Club work.

groups within the State. About one-third of the councils furnish news releases and special articles to newspapers and periodicals. Four of the councils write columns in State papers.

Four of the councils have their own radio programs. More than one-third of the councils either broadcast on radio programs sponsored by other organizations or prepare material and transcriptions used on these programs.

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Nearly all of the councils carry on some public relations work. The expansion of cooperative business has extended the field of contact for cooperatives and it has been necessary to establish friendly relationships with individuals and organizations in other types of business.

A number of councils have speakers' bureaus which furnish competent speakers from cooperative groups to appear before civic groups, luncheon clubs, labor organizations, bankers' associations, church societies, school gatherings, and various other rural and urban groups.

Joint conferences are held by a number of the councils with business, professional, and labor groups. These help to better understanding of cooperatives and agricultural problems as related to other groups in our economy.

Such work with other groups helps to counteract the unfavorable publicity by those who question the place of cooperatives in our economic system. It has required increased activity on the part of the councils to meet these attacks and protect the rights and principles of cooperatives.

In four States - Kansas, Michigan, Vermont, and Wisconsin - a week or a month is proclaimed every year by the governors in special recognition of cooperatives. The councils and their members arrange special programs at these times featuring the history, accomplishments, and aims of cooperatives.

LEGISLATIVE WORK

The councils follow all legislative activity which in any way affects cooperatives. All councils but two carry on some legislative programs. Many of them have their programs intensified or developed to safeguard their position under tax statutes and regulations. This has become a very important issue in the last 5 years.

A number of the councils have legislative committees that act as clearing houses on legal, accounting, tax, and auditing problems and prepare information on cooperatives for use in legislation. Activity is greatest during the sessions of the State legislatures. News letters and oft-times daily releases are issued to keep members informed of action that has been taken on agricultural and cooperative bills.

NATIONAL COUNCILS OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

To keep in touch with matters of national scope affecting their interests, most of the State councils have become affiliated with national organizations of cooperatives. Twenty-four are affiliated with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives - 22 as voting members and two as associate members. Eight of the councils are members of the National Association of Cooperatives. See table 3.

Table 3. - Membership of the councils in the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the National Association of Cooperatives, 1947.

NAME OF COUNCIL	STATE	MEMBER OF	
		NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES
Arizona Cooperative council.....	Ariz.	No	No
Agricultural Council of California.....	Calif.	Yes	No
Connecticut Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	Conn.	No	No
Colorado Cooperative Council, Inc.....	Colo.	Yes	No
Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	Fla.	Yes	No
Georgia Cooperative Council.....	Ga.	Yes	No
Idaho Cooperative Council.....	Idaho	Yes	No
Iowa Council of Cooperation.....	Iowa	Yes	Yes
Kansas Cooperative Council.....	Kan.	Yes	Yes
Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	La.	Yes	No
Maine Cooperative Council.....	Maine	Yes	No
Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives.....	Mich.	Yes	Yes
Minnesota Association of Cooperatives.....	Minn.	No	Yes
Mississippi Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	Miss.	No	No
Nebraska Cooperative Council.....	Nebr.	Yes	Yes
Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina....	N. C.	Yes	No
Ohio Council of Farm Cooperatives.....	Ohio	Yes	No
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council.....	Okla.	Yes	No
Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon.....	Ore.	Yes	No
Pennsylvania Association of Cooperatives.....	Pa.	Yes (Assoc.)	No
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives.....	S. D.	Yes	Yes
Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	Tenn.	Yes	No
Texas Federation of Cooperatives.....	Texas	Yes	Yes
Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives.....	Utah	Yes	No
Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc.....	Vt.	Yes (Assoc.)	No
Agricultural Conference Board of Virginia.....	Va.	Yes	No
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives..	Wash.	Yes	No
Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Cooperative.....	Wisc.	Yes	No
Wisconsin Association of Cooperatives.....	Wisc.	No	Yes
Wyoming Cooperative Council, Inc	Wyo.	No	No

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives was organized in 1929, and has headquarters at Washington, D. C. It broadly classifies its work in three parts:

1. "Working with Congress, various economic groups, and with officials in Government bureaus, on matters directly affecting cooperatives or agriculture as a whole, in line with stated Council policies on the matter under discussion.
2. "Handling specific requests of member organizations for work with Congress or with officials in Government Bureaus, which may be in the interests of single cooperatives, commodity groups, or the entire Council membership.
3. "Promoting the interests of farmer cooperatives through an educational and informational service direct to cooperatives and by operating as a forum or conference body through which cooperative views may be harmonized, bonds of friendship developed, and experiences exchanged - all to the end of solidifying the cooperative movement."

The National Association of Farmer Cooperatives was formed in 1944 as a temporary agency. Its headquarters are in Chicago, Ill. It was created to oppose organized attacks on cooperatives. Most of its work is in the field of legislation relating to cooperatives. It carries on some public relations programs to create a better understanding between business groups, noncooperative organizations, and the cooperatives. Its duties are regarded as complementary and supplementary to those of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

STATE COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

The organization features and activities of the State councils which were operating in 1947 are presented in order of their dates of organization. These reports present information on what the councils have done and are doing to coordinate the activities of farmer cooperatives and to promote harmonious relationships with each other and with other groups. They do not, however, cover all the functions of each council.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

The Agricultural Legislative Committee of California was the first State body representing farm commodity associations to function in the United States. The committee was organized December 12, 1919, and in September 1933 the name Agricultural Council of California was adopted.

Prior to 1919, lack of unity among farm groups in the State was an obstacle in obtaining legislation favorable to the interests of agriculture. The Agricultural Legislative Committee, by uniting the efforts of the groups, became an authoritative legislative voice. As problems of common interest arose and farmer cooperatives began to increase in number, the committee, since 1933 the Agricultural Council of California, expanded its activities to include public relations and educational programs.

A continuous legislative program has helped prevent enactment of many ill-advised proposals introduced in the State legislature. Suggestions for improvement in existing laws have been made, and information pertaining to farmer cooperatives and to agriculture in general has been furnished to aid in the preparation of bills.

Every two years the council makes detailed studies of the work and the budgets of the State Department of Agriculture and of the College of Agriculture, University of California. The studies help to create a better understanding and an appreciation of the activities and problems of these institutions by farm people. Making the studies also brings together administrators of the institutions and farm leaders. With the inauguration of annual sessions of the legislature in 1948 it is likely that these studies will be made annually.

The council members sponsor an educational program to interest rural youth in farmer cooperative principles. A farm co-op educational committee is set up in each of several different regions. The committee in the southern region has been operating for over 10 years. The program has changed from time to time to meet new conditions. First it had an essay contest. Then it inaugurated public speaking contests, but these were discontinued when travel restrictions during the war interfered. In 1944, a quiz type of contest was sponsored for students in agricultural classes particularly the Future Farmers of America. Cash prizes ranging from \$3 to \$10 are awarded the high-scoring contestants. The winners then enter sectional contests for which awards ranging from \$5 to \$25 are made - not to the participant but to the club chapters.

Marketing demonstration projects are conducted in the 4-H Club program. The reward in these projects is a tour of two days, including visits to the plants of marketing cooperatives and other points of interest. The host cooperatives finance the trips.

The council assists farmers in organizing local committees to stimulate, locally, general and specific interest in the legislation affecting agriculture and farmer cooperatives. These committees are designed to bring about a better understanding between the farmers and those persons concerned with making the laws, and tend to make a better State Government.

A weekly column, "The Farmer's Corner," features topics of interest to farmers and information relating to farmer cooperative business. It goes to all newspapers in the State.

In the past short courses for farmers and managers of cooperatives have been held.

The organization, while not maintaining a radio program of its own, occasionally takes part in programs conducted by others.

The Agricultural Council is not incorporated and it has only recently adopted formal bylaws. It was maintained, and still is, only by virtue of the voluntary association of its members, through a mutual agreement at the time of organization, supplemented by action taken from time to time as the need arose.

Membership in the council is limited to farmer producer associations in the State organized on a commodity basis. It is composed largely of farmers cooperative marketing and purchasing associations. General farm organizations and public agencies interested in agriculture are not eligible for membership, but the officers of the three State-wide general farm organizations have a standing invitation to attend all council meetings. The council represents about 70,000 California farmers through 35 member associations.

A representative to the council named by each member is entitled to one vote in all business transactions. These representatives serve as a board of directors. An executive committee of eleven, including the president, honorary president and vice-president exofficio handles the details of the business between meetings and carries out the policies established by the representatives. Representatives meet once a year, except in years the State Legislature is in session. Then from one to three extra meetings are held to consider pending legislation affecting agriculture and the budgets of the State Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, University of California. Annual sessions of the legislature may step up this schedule.

Financial support of the council has been by annual assessment designed to cover the amount necessary to enable the organization to function for the ensuing year. The annual assessment has ranged from \$80 to \$125 for each million dollars of gross f.o.b. business done by the member during the fiscal year prior to the beginning of the council's business year. The present rate is \$80.

The council employs an executive secretary, an assistant and other office personnel. During the sessions of the legislature, additional employees are needed. This part of the personnel is temporary and usually is required from 5 to 6 months every 2 years. When the legislature begins its annual sessions, extra help will be required each year.

Some of the factors which have contributed to the long standing success of the council are:

1. Leadership - Each member has tried to select its most experienced man to represent it.
2. Personnel - Alert full-time employees.
3. Policy and procedure - The council has made a business of studying all problems carefully before taking any action. It has respected the rights of other groups and has never asked for special privileges.

4. Working relationship - A smooth working relationship has been maintained with all public agencies, farm organizations, and educational institutions in the State.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL OF OREGON

The Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon has confined its operations and activities entirely to matters directly affecting cooperatives. It has left to the general farm organizations the broad phases of agricultural policies.

Practically no effort has been made to increase the membership, but it has grown substantially in the past few years. From the beginning, the older and stronger cooperatives in the State have taken an active part in the organization. The council encourages local associations to become members rather than to be represented through federations.

At the close of 1947 the council had 58 members - 55 active and 3 associate. The members included commodity marketing cooperatives, farm supply cooperatives, Oregon State Farmers Union, Oregon State Farm Bureau, and Oregon State Grange. The associate members included were the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the State Agricultural Extension Service, and the Division of Agricultural Economics of Oregon State College.

The Agricultural Cooperative Council was the first State council to devote its activity exclusively to fostering and promoting farmer cooperatives. It was organized on June 16, 1921, at the close of a marketing conference during the annual Farmers' Week at Oregon State College.

At the offset, the council had a somewhat loosely drawn constitution with no provisions for membership dues and a rather broad definition of the term member. The aim had been to avoid formality and to eliminate problems that arise in connection with salaried officers. The council soon found that to function effectively certain expenses would be involved and funds would be needed to meet them. Provisions were then made for membership fees, and its program was considerably broadened. In 1928, it underwent a complete reorganization, adopting a new constitution and bylaws. In 1941, it was incorporated under the cooperative marketing laws of Oregon.

Upon its incorporation, membership fees were placed upon an annual basis. The dues of commodity handling associations were to be based on volume of business. Provisions also were made for a board of directors and for associate memberships. A stricter definition was given to membership qualifications. Any agricultural cooperative marketing or supply association or general State-wide farm organization was now eligible for active membership. Public agencies and others interested in agricultural cooperation would be admitted as associate members.

The council has maintained a close working relationship with the Extension Service of Oregon State College. It participates in county and

intercounty cooperative business institutes and educational programs arranged by the Extension Service, and jointly sponsors schools for managers and directors of cooperatives. In 1946 and 1947, schools for employees of cooperative marketing and purchasing cooperatives were sponsored by the council.

The council has looked into the functions and operations of cooperatives in other States. At one time it arranged a tour of cooperative groups into western Washington to study practices of cooperatives. The plan and experiences of Oregon cooperatives were used in the formation of some of the early councils of farmer cooperatives in other States.

Representatives of the council have taken an active part in the programs of the American Institute of Cooperation. In 1928 when the Institute was held in Berkeley, Calif., the council arranged and conducted a tour of Oregon cooperatives for a group of delegates attending the Institute.

Farm cooperatives in Oregon are reported to be among the best advised groups in the country relative to Federal income tax, workman's compensation, insurance, "Wage-Hour act, and Social Security provisions. The council has helped materially in this connection.

The *Council News Letter*, a mimeographed news release, goes out regularly to members. Radio talks have been used to bring special information to farmers. Although, no radio program is maintained at this time representatives participate in various farm radio programs.

The council has a directorate of 15 members, each serving for a term of one year. Nine directors are elected, one each from nine commodity and supply groups, and six are chosen from the entire group. The chairman and vice-chairman of the board serve as president and vice-president of the council. The board elects from its number an executive committee of five, including the chairman and vice-chairman. The president names a committee of three on finance and audit from the directors, which authorizes all expenditures and audits the books.

To finance the activities of the council, each active member pays an amount determined by the board of directors. For commodity associations, it must not exceed 5 cents for each \$1,000 of its gross business (f.o.b. shipping point base) in the last fiscal year preceding the date the fee is due, with minimum annual dues at \$5. So far, the highest levy has been 2½ cents per \$1,000. No levies were made for the fiscal years 1943 through 1945. An associate members pays \$5 annually.

In all business meetings, each active member has one vote. No voting is done by proxy, but mail balloting on special measures and questions is authorized by the president. Although not so stated in the bylaws, the policy of the council has been to transact all business by unanimous vote.

The council holds three or four meetings each year, and it makes a practice of holding other than annual meetings at the various headquarters of its member associations. This enables the members to become better acquainted with the operations, properties, and environment of each affiliated organization.

No regular office force is maintained by the council. An arrangement made at the time of its formation - for the Extension Service of Oregon State College to provide the secretarial service - is still in effect. Clerical help is sometimes hired to take care of special work.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE CO-OPERATIVE

Since 1926 the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative has been serving as a point of contact for farmer cooperatives in Wisconsin. It has always taken a keen interest in legislative activities. Its recent programs have placed major emphasis on educational and public relations work to meet the unfavorable movement against cooperatives from without and to strengthen and revitalize cooperatives from within.

The council has worked diligently to give the general public a better understanding of the methods and the aims of farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives.

Wisconsin was the first State to designate a State-wide observance of the achievements of cooperatives. Each year the Governor proclaims or designates a week in which attention is focused upon the principles, objectives, and accomplishments of cooperatives. The first was held in 1939, and including 1947, nine cooperative weeks have been observed - each one in February. The council and its members take an active part in arranging and sponsoring programs over the State. Radio broadcasts, newspapers, cooperative programs, and State-wide essay contests set forth the history of cooperatives, their present set-up, and their contributions to community welfare.

The Farmers Get-Together Conference, sponsored annually by the council since 1929, provides an opportunity for farm leaders from all parts of the State, who represent a complete cross section of agricultural interests, to come together for inspirational and informational programs. The annual meeting of the council is also held at the same time as the conference.

Since 1945, the council in cooperation with the American Institute of Cooperation has held annually a series of cooperative clinics in the State. Public relations, membership problems, income tax regulations, and auditing and legal problems of cooperatives are some of the subjects presented by speakers of authority. The clinics are widely attended by attorneys, cooperative accountants, and by managers, directors, and members of cooperatives.

The council works closely with the Institute in connection with the Institute's program of education, information, and service.



The Farmers' Get-Together Conference sponsored annually by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative provides an opportunity for farm leaders from all parts of the State to come together for an inspirational and informational program. This is a view of Verne Varney, State leader of the 4-H Club, leading community singing at the annual banquet in 1947.

Joint conferences with business, industrial, labor, and professional groups are arranged by the council. These build better understanding and a wider appreciation of the problems of all groups.

In 1946, 12 such conferences were held with merchants, bankers, clergymen, laborers, manufacturers, and consumers. Discussions were centered on basic economic issues, cooperative principles, anticooperative charges, interdependency of all economic groups, price controls, and many other current topics of mutual concern.

Interest and participation in State and community activities help to further the work of the cooperatives. Council personnel has served on boards and committees dealing with safety education, minimum wage regulations, employment relations, post-war planning, farm labor, vocational training, State centennial observance, public education, and many other activities of equal importance.

The council keeps in close touch with State legislation. It has supported many bills in the interest of agriculture and has been instrumental in the passage of numerous acts such as farm safety education, transportation regulations, handling of farm products and supplies, grading, bonding, licensing of dairy products, public education, farm labor, and taxes. Studies and recommendations dealing with patents, monopolies, and the inter-relationships of industry, agriculture, and labor have been made.

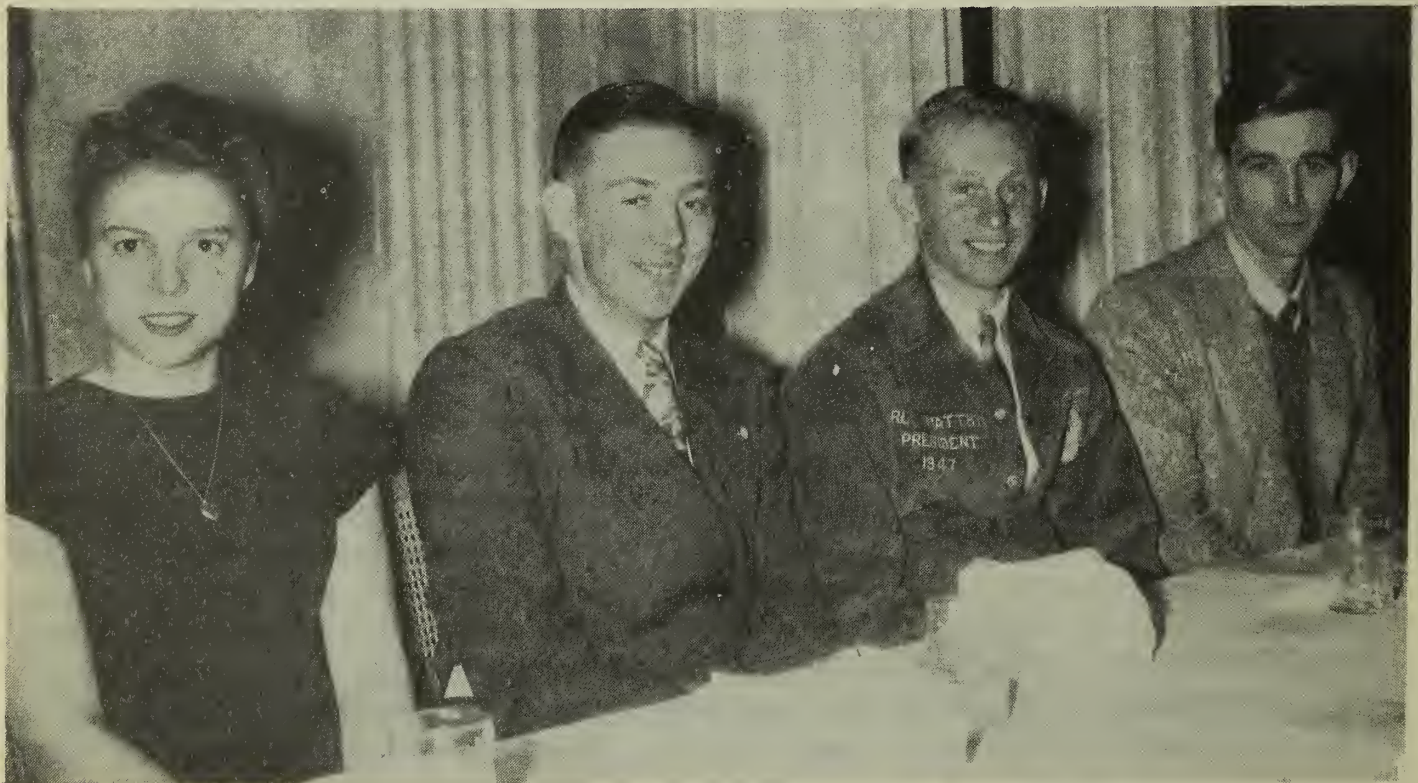
Weekly, during legislative sessions, and at various intervals during the year, it sends a news letter to more than 2,000 farm leaders, extension workers, and agricultural teachers. It also supplies news releases of general agricultural interest to the farm press and the daily and weekly newspapers in the State.

The council works with the State Department of Agriculture; the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, the Extension Service, and the State Board of Vocational Education on programs for 4-H Clubs, rural and high school curriculae, school attendance, and teacher training. It furnishes educational material on cooperative marketing for 4-H Club conferences and for Future Farmers of America chapter work. Assistance also is given to local organizations in arranging programs to interest and educate the farm youth in cooperative principles and practices.

The council participates monthly in a farm forum program over two radio stations where current farm problems are reviewed with other farm organizations. It maintains a monthly program at a third station, makes transcriptions, and has programs periodically on other radio stations.

Three general farm organizations and several cooperative marketing associations in 1926 were largely responsible for organizing of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative. In 1928, it was incorporated under the cooperative law of the State.

To be eligible for membership in the council, an organization must consist of farmers, be farmer-controlled, and must be organized under



These young people were given special recognition for their leadership in youth activities by the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative at the Get-Together Conference, October 30-31, 1947...Phyllis Ainsworth on the left as a leader in the outstanding youth program called "Future Badgers," La Verne Ausman, for his record in 4-H Club work, and Arlie Matthys, present State president of Future Farmers of America. John Cornah of Warwick, England, on far right was visiting the United States observing American youth activities.

the cooperative law of the State. The council's membership includes the following:

1. General educational farm organizations.
2. Bona fide cooperative marketing associations.
3. Bona fide cooperative farm supply purchasing associations.
4. Breeding associations and other farm organizations composed primarily of farmers engaged in promoting the welfare of agriculture and the improvement of rural life.

In July 1947, the council had 55 members composed of 2 general farm organizations and 53 marketing, farm supply purchasing, farmers' service, and other farmer cooperative associations. As many of the members associations are State-wide in scope with numerous affiliated cooperatives, the total membership actually represents more than 400 local cooperatives.

Representatives of educational and administrative agricultural organizations are admitted in an ex officio advisory capacity. In 1947, five advisory members included the College of Agriculture, Wisconsin State Department of Agriculture, State Extension Service, Department of Agricultural Education of River Falls State Teachers College, and the Rural Division of the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education. Each member organization is entitled to one representative on the board of directors. This representative, nominated by his organization, is elected by a majority of the voting delegates at the annual meeting. Each member organization has at least one voting delegate at the annual delegate meeting, and no member is permitted to have more than 10 voting delegates. Prior to the annual meeting the number of voting delegates for each association is determined by the executive committee on the basis of the number of members of each association.

Each ex officio organization designates a nonvoting representative to sit in at sessions with the board of directors.

An executive committee of seven is elected by the board of directors to advise and assist the executive secretary in policy making between special and annual meetings of the board.

General educational and welfare associations each pay annual dues of \$50, plus one percent of total membership fees received for the last fiscal year. Cooperative marketing, purchasing, and bargaining associations each pay \$50, plus one-half of one percent of the association's income for the last fiscal year.

In 1945 the council's slogan was "Cooperation the Way to Agricultural Reconversion." In 1947 it was "Cooperatives at Home - Cooperation Abroad." In its future work the council plans to compile and send out

more printer material to strengthen the internal structure of cooperative organizations. The council will continue to sponsor joint conferences with non-agricultural people so that the principles, objectives, and problems of cooperatives will be more fully understood and appreciated.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

The program of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives is primarily legislative. Activities of the association are closely coordinated with those of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations of which it is a member. The boards of the two organizations hold joint meetings.

The association maintains a legislative committee which keeps abreast of activities in the State legislature. Members of the association receive current information on the status of bills and measures affecting agriculture, particularly those relating to cooperatives.

The support of sound legislation and the opposition to harmful measures has helped materially to strengthen the cooperative movement in the State. In 1929 the association wrote and obtained passage of a new cooperative law for Pennsylvania and since that time has suggested amendments to the existing law. In 1945 it drafted and also obtained passage of a special tax act imposing on cooperatives a 4 percent tax on the net income as defined by the act. The act places cooperatives in the State on a comparable basis with manufacturing corporations which constitute the next largest industry in Pennsylvania.

The association was instrumental in obtaining amendments to the Public Utility Law, which greatly benefits farmers in the hauling of farm products and supplies.

An information service was set up in 1945. It was designed to help offset some of the unfavorable publicity directed toward cooperatives by an unfriendly group. Printed material presenting information on cooperatives has been distributed to acquaint the general public with the true principles and practices of cooperative organizations.

The association has cooperated with the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations in its work on barberry eradication, vaccine to farmers at cost for rabies control, adequate school lunch program, improved farmer-to-market roads, soil conservation, and adequate funds for research under the Research Marketing Act of 1946.

The Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives, then the Pennsylvania Association of Cooperative Organizations had its inception in 1926 at an informal meeting of cooperative leaders held at Pennsylvania State College. It was formally set up in December 1933. At the semi-annual meeting of the members on February 14, 1947, the name was changed to its present title, Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

The membership of the association is made up of incorporated agricultural marketing, bargaining, and purchasing associations in Pennsylvania which are owned and controlled by farmers. No association which is a subsidiary of another cooperative is eligible for membership. At the beginning of 1947 the membership consisted of 48 cooperatives - having almost doubled since 1944.

The membership in the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations is not restricted to cooperative associations but is open to all farm organizations.

A fee of only \$10 is required of each member of the Association of Farmer Cooperatives. Voting is limited to one vote for each member. On legislative matters voting by proxy or by wire is accepted.

Although the bylaws make no provision for associate members, representatives from the School of Agriculture of the Pennsylvania State College, the Department of Agriculture at Harrisburg, and the Agricultural Educational Department at Harrisburg attend the meetings of the association in an advisory capacity.

An executive board of 10 members consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and seven other members elected from the councilors has charge of the business affairs of the association. The members of the board, so far as possible, represent different farm commodities.

An auditing committee of three is appointed by the president to audit the books of the association and present its report at the annual meeting.

Some consideration has been given to employing a full time staff, but up to the present no action has been taken. Officers from the different cooperatives have served as secretaries to the association at one time or another. At present the controller of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Cooperative Association serves as secretary-treasurer.

OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

Annual short courses on the setup and functions of farm cooperatives for farm youth and adults continue to be the most important feature of the program of the Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council. One-day institutes, or "cooperative clinics," for members and personnel of cooperatives, and recognition awards for outstanding work in agricultural cooperation also receive considerable attention.

The council has been conducting the annual short courses on cooperatives, and their functions for about 10 years. For the first 4 years 1-day courses were held in four sections of the State for adult cooperative leaders. The next 2 years short courses were held at Camp Redlands, Lake Carl Blackwell, for boys between 16 and 21. These courses were

well attended, but were discontinued during the war as most of the boys were either in military service or engaged in some type of war work. In 1943 and 1944, a 2-day course for managers, directors, and farm leaders was substituted. Since then the courses have been for more than 2 days and both young people and adults attend the classes. In the fall of 1947 1-day institutes were held at four points in the State

Outstanding work in cooperation is recognized by the council. Each year plaques are awarded to members who have made a notable contribution to agricultural cooperation. Each member cooperative, including commodity groups and general farm organizations, nominates three men. The council selects one man from each of the commodity groups and one from each general farm organization to receive the plaques.

Beginning in 1945, the council in cooperation with the American Institute of Cooperation, and the Wichita Bank for Cooperatives, has been holding "cooperative clinics" in three or four towns for managers, members, and others interested in cooperation.

The council maintains a legislative committee which keeps in touch with all measures and bills that come before the State legislature. In 1937, it was responsible for writing the Oklahoma cooperative associations act.

Meetings largely are used to get information to members. Some letters are circulated, but the number is small. The council is considering



The annual short courses on cooperatives and their functions held at Camp Redlands, near Stillwater, by the Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council are not all work. Here the boys are getting in a little base ball to help keep the body active for digesting the courses.

employing an executive secretary. With this addition it will be in a position to broaden its program and carry on more extensive activities. Since the formation of the organization, some member of the staff of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College has served as secretary on a part time basis.

Organized in 1929, the council has served as a point of contact for coordinating the relations of Oklahoma farm cooperatives. The organization has both active and associate members. In the beginning State-wide cooperatives and general farm organizations were eligible for active membership, while educational institutions and public agencies interested in agricultural cooperation were eligible for associate memberships. Since 1945, only State-wide farm cooperatives have been active members, and general farm organizations, with others, have been associate members.

In June 1947, the council had seven active members and eight associate members. Among the associate members are a farm paper, the Farm Credit Administration of Wichita, Kans., State Grange, State Farm Bureau, and departments of educational institutions.

Each active member has one vote, while associate members, who may attend all meetings and enter into discussions, have no voting power. Two or three meetings in addition to the annual meeting are held each year.

An executive committee of five officers of the council looks after the business of the organization.

The expenditures of the council are met by a flat annual assessment supplemented by extra assessments when needed. At present, each member pays \$50. Dues are not levied on associate members but at times they contribute funds to aid the council in its work.

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE BOARD OF VIRGINIA

In the latter part of 1946, the Agricultural Conference Board of Virginia moved forward as a State council of farmer cooperatives. Its activities are similar to those of many of the State councils functioning in other States, and it has been admitted to membership in the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Since organization in 1929, the Conference Board has confined its activities primarily to work pertaining to agricultural legislation.

The Conference Board has effectively supported many measures for promoting the welfare of farmers and rural people in the State. It has been just as effective in opposing bills which would have proved harmful to cooperatives and agriculture in general.

Some important accomplishments in which it has played a leading part include the following:

1. Enactment of the Grading and Marketing Act.
2. Passage of modernizing and liberalizing amendments to the Cooperative Marketing Act providing particularly for cooperative purchasing and allowing cooperatives to do business with nonmembers.
3. Appropriations for dairy building and new agricultural building for Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg.
4. Enactment of Fluid Milk Market Regulation Law.
5. Enactment of Electric Cooperatives Act.
6. Enactment of the Soil Conservation District Act.
7. Opposition to bill which would have levied discriminatory taxes on cooperatives and place intolerable restrictions upon them.
8. Opposition to increase in freight rates which would have raised the cost of marketing farm products and the cost of supplies purchased by farmers.
9. Increased appropriations to expand home demonstration and 4-H Club work into additional counties.

When the Rural Electrification Administration was set up in 1935, the Conference Board took the lead in working out the application of the Rural Electrification Administration program in Virginia until the Farm Power Board of Virginia was organized in 1936.

In cooperation with the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, the Conference Board and its member organizations have been sponsoring a series of co-op workshops over the State. The workshops are similar to the co-op clinics sponsored by State councils in other States. The programs consist of talks by cooperative leaders from among the membership and from other States, panel discussions, and movies.

Members of the Conference Board are organizations of agricultural producers. At the close of 1947, it had 50 members consisting largely of farmers' marketing, purchasing, and service cooperatives. The other members were general farm and home organizations and commodity educational associations.

The affairs of the organization are conducted by a board consisting of one representative from each member organization. Each representative has one vote, which may be cast in person or by mail.

An executive committee of nine members acts for the board between its meetings. It is made up of three representatives from the cooperatives, three from the general farm and home organizations, and three from the commodity educational group.

Each cooperative pays annual dues in proportion to the volume of business done during the fiscal year prior to the time designated for the payment of dues on the following basis:

Less than \$50,000 annual sales.....	\$5
\$50,000 - \$100,000 annual sales.....	10
Over \$100,000 annual sales.....	20 for each
	\$250,000 or
	fraction thereof
Maximum assessment.....	500

General farm organizations pay \$20 each. Any organization, whether a member or nonmember, may contribute other funds.

The Conference Board does not maintain a full time officer. The secretary is selected by the Executive Committee and serves only part time. The Board hopes before too long to employ an executive secretary who will devote full time to the work of the organization.

IDAHO COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

Activities of the Idaho Cooperative Council are largely educational and are carried on through circulars, letters, and annual and district meetings. Representatives from cooperative educational organizations and public agencies are invited to take part in the meetings and discuss topics of vital importance to cooperatives.

Although legislative problems are not of major importance, the council does have a legislative committee which is active during the sessions of the State legislature. The Legal and Tax Committee was formed in the Spring of 1944, when a meeting was held to discuss auditing problems. It is made up of attorneys and auditors who represent the member cooperatives, and acts as a clearing house on legal and tax problems.

The council was organized in June 1930, by the Extension Service of the University of Idaho and State leaders in agricultural cooperation in response to the need for a better understanding of the principles of agricultural cooperation and to promote a sound development of farmers' cooperatives in the State.

The active membership of the council includes the larger farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives in the State. In July 1947, the organization had 50 members, principally dairy associations, grain and seed cooperatives, livestock and poultry associations, and farm supply organizations. Associate memberships are available to general farm organizations, State Agricultural College, Extension Service, State Department of Agriculture, and other public agencies interested in furthering the cooperative movement. The council however, has never had many associate members.

Financial support of the council is from membership fees. An active member pays an annual fee based on its gross volume of business as follows: \$5 minimum fee and \$5 for each additional \$100,000 or major fraction thereof in excess of \$200,000. The requirement for an associate member is an annual fee of \$5.

At all meetings of the council, each member has two representatives, but only one vote. An associate member can take part in the discussions, but cannot vote. No voting by proxy or by mail is permitted.

The affairs of the organization are conducted by a board of nine members - each member serving 3 years.

The council has managed to carry on its program without the services of a paid secretary. Since its organization it has been associated with the Extension Service in its educational program, and the extension marketing specialist serves as secretary.

GEORGIA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

An important program of the Georgia Cooperative Council is training farm youth for work in farm cooperatives. The training is carried on in cooperation with the Extension Service of the University of Georgia and different commodity associations. About six training programs in large marketing cooperatives were offered in the latter part of 1947. Before the war, 3 one-day schools of similar type were held for small cooperatives in North Georgia and 1 in South Georgia.

A program to encourage the interest of farm boys and girls in cooperation was set up in the spring of 1947 with the 4-H Club but was not to be carried on until sometime later.

The council is devoting more time to public relations. The program formerly was largely educational work with members and groups interested in cooperatives. The council reports that there is need in the State for an understanding of cooperative business and an improved working relationship with other business groups. This activity will be somewhat limited as the council does not employ a full time secretary.

In its work with cooperatives, representatives of the council have met separately with special commodity or service cooperatives and discussed topics of interest to each group. The council frequently participates in farmers' institutes.

Farmers have been aided in many different ways by the council. For one, the council urged the University of Georgia to reestablish the School of Veterinary Medicine. Production of livestock and dairying had become increasingly important in the State, and trained experts were needed for meat and dairy inspections. The School was reestablished in the fall of 1946.

The council takes an active interest in State legislation affecting agriculture and farm cooperatives. It has been instrumental in preventing the passage of laws that would have been detrimental to cooperatives. Through its efforts the Cooperative Marketing Act of Georgia was amended. It also helped Georgia cooperatives get exemption from State income taxes, and worked to obtain passage of the Rural Electrification Membership Corporation Act.

Nearly all of the activities of the council are carried on through news letters and meetings. On special cooperative matters, radio programs are used to reach members and other groups. An occasional article is contributed to a farm paper.

In 1942 the council took the lead in bringing the annual meeting of the American Institute of Cooperation to Atlanta.

Although the Georgia Cooperative Council was formed in the spring of 1932, the cooperatives did not get together on a working basis until 1937. Membership is open to any cooperative association organized and operating under Georgia cooperative laws - and also to any farmers' cooperative with headquarters in another State but with a branch in Georgia. General farm organizations, State Department of Agriculture, State Agricultural College, Extension Service, Vocational Department, State Bureau of Markets, or any other public or semi-public agency interested in agricultural cooperation, is eligible for associate membership.

In July 1947, the council had a membership of 14 cooperatives, including commodity cooperatives, rural electrification associations, and mutual fire insurance companies. The five associate members were Georgia Extension Service, State College of Agriculture, State Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration and the Vocational Agriculture Department.

In all business transactions, each member has one vote. Voting by mail or by proxy is not permitted. An associate member has no vote.

The business activities of the council are conducted by a board of directors which varies from 5 to 11. At the present there are 11 members, each representing an commodity group and serving for 1 year. There is also an executive committee of three members who serve for 1 year.

The council does not employ any personnel. From the beginning it has had a very close working relationship with the Extension Service of the University of Georgia. The extension economist in marketing serves as secretary to the council.

FARMERS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL OF NORTH CAROLINA

The program of Farmers Cooperative Council of North Carolina is exclusively educational and promotional. The council has never participated

in legislative activities. Cooperatives believe the State Grange and other general farm organizations which maintain active representation in the legislative field have given adequate service to the cooperatives. The relationship between the cooperatives and the general farm organizations, particularly the Grange, has been very cord'

The council has annually held series of conferences for managers and directors. For the past two years it has sponsored, in cooperation with the American Institute of Cooperation and Columbia Bank for Cooperatives, clinics for directors, managers, farm leaders and others.

The council usually holds three or four meetings each year to discuss problems of cooperatives and to formulate programs. Other business with members is carried on by mail or by telephone.

The organization of the council was completed in May 1935, although the first step toward the formation was taken in July 1931. The increase in freight rates on farm commodities was the final factor that brought about the formation of the organization. Any farmers' cooperative in the State is eligible for membership. Under the original set-up a cooperative having less than \$100,000 annual business could become a member only at the discretion of the executive committee which is the governing body. By an amendment to the bylaws in 1945 all farmer cooperatives, regardless of business volume, became eligible for membership.

In July 1947 the council had 10 members and 8 associate or advisory members. The associate members are the State commissioner of agriculture, the chief of the State Division of Markets, officer in State Division of Markets assigned to work with cooperatives, the director and the marketing specialist of the Extension Service of the State College, the head and a professor of the Department of Rural Economics of the State College, and the State director of vocational agriculture.

Each member has one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted, but voting by mail on special questions submitted in advance is permitted. Associate members are entitled to vote only on matters which do not pertain specifically to farmers' cooperative marketing and purchasing associations, but they may participate freely in all discussions.

Each member now pays minimum membership dues of \$25 plus an amount to be determined each year on the basis of gross sales. The annual budget is adopted by the members. A committee from the State Department of Agriculture and State College of Agriculture and Engineering prorates the amount to the member organizations on the basis of the gross volume of business handled by each. Associate members are not required to pay annual dues, but they may contribute funds.

The affairs of the council are conducted by an executive committee now consisting of three members, including the president, and elected by the members of the council. Each member serves for one year. Other committees necessary to carry on the work of the organization are appointed by the council.

The council employs a part-time secretary. Since there has been a very close working relationship between the council and the State Grange, the master of the Grange, in addition to his duties with the Grange, has been serving as secretary to the council.

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

One of the major activities of the Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives is an educational program for vocational agricultural students in high schools. Working directly with the supervisor of the State Board for Vocational Education, courses on marketing farm products and purchasing farm supplies have been developed to prepare boys to become farmers. These courses also help to instruct boys as future cooperative employees. Students interested in cooperative work are brought to the attention of the cooperatives for part time work or for full time jobs later.

Quiz contests are held in cooperation with the State Board for Vocational Education for boys in the last 2 years of high school who are members of Future Farmers chapters. Fifty questions covering the general field of farm marketing and purchasing of farm supplies are used. The contests are held in each of the six districts of the Future Farmers of America. Winners in local chapters compete in district finals. Cash awards are given and the six first prize winners in the finals are guests of the council at its annual meeting.

Demonstration contests are conducted in cooperation with the Extension Service for 4-H Club members - both boys and girls. These contests involve the regular project activities carried on by club members in agriculture and Home Economics. In 1947 State-wide contests were held in Yakima at the time of State Fair. Fifteen winners were guests of the Washington Council of Farmer Cooperatives at its annual meeting in November. All expenses were paid by the council, and a silver medal with a four-leaf clover on the front and Co-op Council stamped on the back presented to each winner.

A 3-day program, including a tour of a number of cooperatives, is arranged annually for both 4-H and Future Farmer winners in the two contests. In 1946, when the meeting was held in Spokane, the Spokane Bank for Cooperatives was included in the tour. In 1947 the 4-H Club and Future Farmers State winners visited the Washington Cooperative Farmers Association and the Consolidated Dairy Products Association in Seattle.

In cooperation with the American Institute of Cooperation, the council has been sponsoring co-op clinics for managers, directors, and members of cooperatives. Altogether eight clinics have been held. Nationally known leaders in the different fields of agricultural cooperation discuss taxes, accounting terminology, auditing, public relations, and educational programs.

In addition to the close working relationship with the Extension Service and the State Board for Vocational Education, the council works closely with the Grange, Farm Bureau, and other agricultural organizations in the State.

The State legislature meets every other year, and at this time for about two months the council turns its attention to legislation. In 1946, a legal and taxation committee was appointed to follow legislation and to serve the members as a clearing house on legal and taxation matters.

In 1938 the council was in part responsible for the annual meeting of the American Institute of Cooperation held jointly at the State College of Washington and the University of Idaho.

The council averages about one information bulletin each month. However, during the session of the legislature a bulletin is sometimes issued every day. Information relating to clinics and meetings is announced over the radio and in farm newspapers and periodicals.

Membership has shown a steady increase since 1936. In 1947 it totaled 84 marketing and purchasing cooperatives, representing 75,000 farmers. Eligible agricultural cooperatives are those that qualify as bona fide co-ops under cooperative statutes of Washington or the Agricultural Marketing Act, a Federal statute.

General farm organizations, Washington State College, the Extension Service, the State Department of Agriculture, production credit associations, national farm loan associations, and other public agencies interested in furthering the cooperative movement among farmers may become associate members.

Each active member association is entitled to one voting representative. No voting is by proxy, but if a special meeting is not practicable for deciding special questions, a ballot vote may be taken by mail. Associate members have no vote, but they may take part in the discussions at all meetings.

The Washington State Cooperative Council was organized in 1936 to coordinate the activities of all farmer cooperatives in the State. In January 1944 the name was changed to Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives to conform with the name of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, of which it is a member.

A board of nine directors, elected from seven commodity groups designated for the purpose of elections and two directors-at-large elected from the floor at the annual meeting, administer the affairs of the council. Directors elected from commodity groups serve 3 years, the elections being staggered, whereas the two directors-at-large serve only 1 year.

Annual dues of the active members are determined by the board of directors, and are based on the gross annual dollar volume of business of the year just prior to the date dues are to be paid - with a minimum requirement of \$10. At present the rate is one one-hundredth of one percent of the gross annual volume. Dues for associations such as bargaining and breeder organizations which do not have an annual gross volume of business are established by agreement between the board members and each member organization.

Prior to December 1944, the council had not maintained a full time secretary. The administrative assistant of the Extension Service served as part time secretary from 1936 to 1938. He then became State conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, but continued to serve the council in the same capacity until 1941. At its annual meeting in December 1944, the council arranged to employ him as executive secretary. In the interim, the director of membership and public information of the Washington Cooperative Farmers Association served as secretary.

COLORADO COOPERATIVE COUNCIL, INC.

The present Colorado Cooperative Council, Inc., is the result of the reorganization in 1944 of a council formed in 1937. With the reorganization it planned to carry on both educational and legislative programs. More attention was to be given to the legislative program.

The new council made provisions for regular, associate, and honorary memberships. Any regular incorporated agricultural cooperative engaged in marketing, bargaining, purchasing, of farm supplies, or performing farm services is eligible for regular membership. Local incorporated cooperatives, or unincorporated cooperatives may become associate members. Individuals and officials representing the public and semi-public agencies, interested in furthering the objective of the council or in the cooperative movement may become honorary members.

Membership dues were increased. Originally, a regular member paid an annual fee of \$10, and as associate member \$5. Under the 1944 set-up, each regular member pays \$25 for each fiscal year and is subject to an assessment in an equitable amount considered necessary to conduct the program of the council, but not to exceed one percent of the net savings or balances remaining from operating deductions.

The membership fee for an associate member is \$10 without additional assessment. There is no fee for honorary members. Donations may be accepted.

Each regular member has one vote in any meeting. Representatives of associate and honorary members have all the privileges of the council, including the right to vote, but they cannot be elected to membership on the board of directors. Members may vote by mail on specific questions, but no voting is by proxy.

The affairs of the council are controlled by a board of not less than nine directors, including the president and vice-president. The directors are divided into three groups, one group elected each year so as to stagger the years of election. Each member serves for a term of 3 years.

An executive committee of five, consisting of the officers of the council and one other member elected at the annual meeting conducts the affairs of the council between meetings of the board. The members of the committee also made up the membership, program, and finance committee.

The board of directors employs an executive secretary.

MAINE COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

The Maine Cooperative Council was formed in 1938 to develop and encourage a sound program of farmers' business organizations within the State. While concerned chiefly with legislative proposals and revisions affecting cooperatives, it has carried on some educational and informational work.

Prior to 1945, Maine did not have an adequate agricultural cooperative association act. The council sought the enactment of a carefully prepared measure, and in 1944 the legislative committee of the organization presented a proposal for a uniform bill to the legislature. The following year an act recognizing the special features of cooperative organizations and their operations was passed. The legislative committee also initiated and obtained amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act which permitted farmers and their associations to furnish trucking service for farm products and farm supplies within the State.

During the war effective help was rendered by the council in bringing together representatives of Government agencies and leaders of various farm cooperatives to iron out difficulties in doing business under war-time regulations.

About one-half the council's program is devoted to educational and informational work. The association sponsors short courses on farm cooperation held at the College of Agriculture, University of Maine. In 1946, the interest of farm boys and girls in cooperatives was encouraged by a contest sponsored in connection with the Future Farmers of America educational program. Prizes were offered for the best teaching plan for presenting a course on farm cooperatives.

A series of three meetings with a nationally known co-op speaker is held each summer to give information to co-op officials and to improve public relations.

The Maine Cooperator. a news letter issued about every 3 months, keeps members informed of important current activities in the cooperative field. Each year a special issue carries the report of the annual meeting.

Membership is open to cooperatives owned and controlled by farmers, and operated to market farm products, to purchase farm supplies, or to perform farm business services; also to general farmers' organizations, such as the Grange or the Farm Bureau, and to any public or semipublic agency interested in cooperatives. Prior to 1945 general farm organizations and public agencies were entitled only to associate membership, but an amendment of the bylaws gave these groups regular membership.

At the close of 1946, 28 organizations were members, two of which were general farm organizations - Maine Farm Bureau Federation and Maine State Grange - and 26 cooperatives handling milk and milk products, potatoes, fruit, poultry, and farm supplies; canning farm products, and furnishing such services as artificial breeding, electricity, and fire insurance. About one-third of the cooperatives in the State, including practically all the large associations, are members.

The expenses of the council are met by membership fees and assessments. The annual dues are \$10 plus an assessment not to exceed one-tenth of one percent of the association income from commodity marketing, purchasing, service, or bargaining.

A board of five trustees - including the president and vice-president conducts the business of the council, and each trustee serves for 1 year. At annual and special meetings and voting power of each member is limited to one vote. A member may vote by mail on any question presented on a specially prepared ballot.

As in some other States, the Maine council maintains a close working relationship with the Extension Service, and the marketing specialist of this services acts as secretary of the council. The financial set-up of the council, as limited by the number and size of farm co-ops in Maine, does not enable it to employ full time personnel.

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

Since its organization in 1939, the Florida Council of Farmer Cooperatives has been engaged primarily in educational work. News letters go out at frequent intervals to keep members informed on cooperative progress and farm policies. Considerable thought has been given to membership relations. The council has no definite legislative program, but members are notified of legislative action affecting cooperatives.

In 1946, the council completed a survey of cooperative activities in the State. Through cooperative clinics it is helping its members solve many of their problems. In 1946 - and again in 1947 as a feature of the council's annual meeting, a cooperative clinic was held with the American Institute of Cooperation and the Columbia Bank for Cooperatives. A panel of cooperative leaders and professional men discussed legal and business problems of cooperatives. This was followed by a general discussion.

Fifty cooperatives are members of the council. About 85 percent of the tonnage handled cooperatively in the State is represented in this membership. Commodities marketed include vegetables, citrus, avocados, sugar, livestock, dairy feed, milk and milk products. Purchasing and service organizations also are represented in the membership.

Any bona fide agricultural cooperative association engaged in marketing farm products, purchasing farm supplies, or providing farm business services, with an annual business of \$100,000 or more, may become a member. An association whose business is less than \$100,000 may be elected to membership at the discretion of the board of directors.

General farm organizations, commodity, educational and promotional State organizations, State organizations of agricultural clubs, and divisions of public agencies may become associate members.

At annual or special meetings, each member has one vote. Voting by proxy and by mail are not permitted. An associate member may attend all meetings and take part in the discussions, but has no voting power. Annual membership dues are fixed by the board of directors, but must not exceed \$25. The fee has been \$10 per member. Additional levies, if needed, can be made on members, but only with unanimous consent. Associate members are not required to pay any fee, but they may contribute funds.

Provision is made for a board of directors of not less than five or more than 12 to conduct the business of the council. At present, the board consists of 11 members. They are divided into three classes of as nearly equal numbers as possible, and to stagger the elections, one class is elected each year. Each director serves for a term of 3 years, and no director who has served a full 3 years can immediately succeed himself.

The bylaws provide for the appointment of the following standing committee, which serve for 1 year: Legislative, educational, organization, social economic agencies, and special. The president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and the chairman of these committees make up the executive committee, the duties of which are delegated by the board of directors.

The council works closely with the Columbia Bank for Cooperatives, and they hold their annual meetings during the same week.

The educational program of the council has been closely associated with the Extension service of the University of Florida, and the extension economist in marketing serves as secretary of the council in educational activities only.

WYOMING COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

The Wyoming Cooperative Council serves largely as a point of contact for the coordination of activities of the cooperatives in Wyoming. With the small number of cooperative associations in the State - and these with possibly a minimum of operating problems - there is little need for the council to carry on an extensive program.

Some educational work among cooperatives is underway and a minimum of activity in the legislative field is carried on. Through the efforts of the council, the University of Wyoming now offers a course in agricultural cooperation. Representatives of the council keep informed on legislation affecting cooperatives, and discussions relating to the structure and services of farm cooperatives have been held with State legislators to give a better understanding of cooperative business for use in preparing bills for legislation.

In 1947 the council sponsored a series of four meetings held in different parts of the State to bring all types of cooperatives together so that they can give some thought to their common problems. Invitations to these meetings were sent to the Wyoming Production Credit Association, Wyoming Cooperative Wool Marketing Association, Inc., national farm loan associations, rural electrification cooperatives, and marketing and purchasing cooperative associations. One of the fieldmen from Consumers Cooperative Association of Kansas City appeared on the program.

Organization of the council took place in September 1941. The membership is open to all farm cooperatives. Educational institutions and public agencies interested in the welfare of cooperatives may become associate members. In July 1947, the council had 20 active members, but no associate members.

A board of six directors has charge of the business affairs of the organization. There is no employed personnel - at present the assistant director of Extension Service of the University of Wyoming serves as secretary.

The activities of the council are financed by assessments. Each member pays an annual fee of \$25 - if additional funds are needed, special assessments are levied.

OHIO COUNCIL OF FARM COOPERATIVES

The Ohio Council of Farm Cooperatives works to promote a harmonious working relationship between cooperatives in Ohio and to improve the relationship of the cooperatives with business and educational groups. Emphasis now is being placed on public relations - including relations with the press. Through its educational programs both rural and urban people are being told about the structure and operations of cooperative business. Much of this work is carried on as a joint activity with cooperatives within the county.

The activities of the council do not conflict with those of any other farm organization, since they deal with objectives, any group or organization working alone could not attain. In fact, both general farm organizations are officially represented in the council.

The council maintains a speakers' bureau which furnishes speakers for farm and civic meetings who represent all commodity cooperatives and farm organizations affiliated with the council.

Plans have been made to hold six cooperative clinics, or training schools, on a district basis for directors, officers, managers, and employees of cooperatives. These clinics are jointly sponsored by the cooperatives, and speakers and consultants from Ohio State University, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, American Institute of Cooperation, and Farm Credit Administration will discuss legal regulations and tax rulings, auditing, public responsibilities of cooperatives, and public relations problems.

Legislative functions of the council are limited to measures and bills affecting structure taxation, or operations of cooperatives. It does not concern itself with legislation in the general agricultural field. One of the first activities of the council was to obtain amendments to the Ohio Cooperative Marketing Law, so it now more adequately serves the needs of cooperative organizations. The council participated in the investigations of the Ohio Small Business Commission which was established by the General Assembly. A representative of the council was a member of the Commission. This made it possible to show in the Commission's report to the legislature the true position of the cooperative as a small business organization. The Commission was discontinued by the 97th General Assembly of Ohio.

One important feature of the council's program is its recommendations and nominations of important farm leaders for responsible positions on public boards and commissions affecting agriculture and cooperatives. The council's choice of men for such positions have been highly respected by State officials.

In July 1947, the council in cooperation with the Ohio Bureau of Markets completed an extensive survey of cooperatives in the State. A map showing the location of farm cooperatives, farmers mutual insurance companies, and mutual aid societies was prepared by the council for distribution to all local cooperatives.

In 1946, the council sponsored a conference on cooperative education at Columbus, Ohio. Leaders in education from other States were brought in to discuss and exchange ideas for developing education on cooperation in the schools. The training of cooperative personnel and the current tax situation also were discussed.

Another program - one which received much attention during the war - was to help cooperatives through the joint use of trucks, facilities, and personnel.

Information goes to members through circular letters and brochures. All local cooperatives are on the mailing list regardless of whether they are affiliated with the members of the council. Special articles and news items in the cooperative field are provided for all farm publications in the State.

The council was organized November 11, 1942. It differs somewhat from many State councils in that its membership is made up entirely of major or federated groups. These include marketing and purchasing cooperatives, State-wide general farm organizations, and State societies interested in farm cooperation. On July 1, 1947, the membership consisted of 11 groups - 9 major and federated farmer cooperatives, the Ohio State Grange, and the Ohio State Horticultural Society.

Financial support of the council is met by assessments. Each member pays a prorated amount - for marketing and purchasing associations, it usually is based on the volume of business.

In the transaction of business, each member has one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted but, upon a resolution by the board of directors, members may vote by mail on ballots specially prepared by the secretary.

The affairs of the council now are conducted by an enlarged board of 22 directors. By an amendment to the constitution and bylaws in 1946, provision was made for each member to be represented by a producer-director and a manager-director, and in addition 5 alternates each who meet quarterly with the board to help determine the policy and program of the council. The board meets at the call of the president or the executive secretary.

Several county councils have been organized with the assistance of the State council. Ohio is one of the few States in which county councils have been formed. These councils are made up of officers, directors, managers, and employees of all local cooperatives within a county. They function as a conference board and do not take over any functions of management or decide any questions of policy. They meet quarterly. Some of their functions are to hold meetings with business men who own farms or are members, patrons, or suppliers of the local cooperative; help plan district cooperative clinics, develop joint advertising programs for all cooperatives in the county, and obtain pictures and feature stories to be used for the cooperative edition of the local paper during *Co-op Week*.

TEXAS FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES

The membership of the Texas Federation of Cooperatives has increased threefold in the last 3 years. At the close of 1944 it was composed of 32 local and regional cooperatives and by the end of 1947 it numbered 93 associations, including all of the federated organizations in the State.

The two most important phases of its program at the present are (1) membership education and information releases, and (2) legislative activity. The legislative program is becoming more important because of the recent attack on cooperatives regarding taxes. It was not the original plan of the Federation to devote so much time to legislative activities.

In cooperation with the general farm organizations the Federation has successfully opposed bills in the State legislature which if passed would be detrimental to cooperative business. On the other hand it has

helped obtain the passage of two bills which benefit cooperatives ... a cooperative hospital enabling act and an amendment to the Rural Electrification Administration enabling law.

In 1946 and 1947, the Federation in cooperation with local associations, State Extension Service, and Houston Bank for Cooperatives sponsored cooperative clinics for managers, directors, and members of cooperatives. Each year one State-wide clinic and six or more regional all-day clinics were held to discuss problems of cooperatives. At each meeting a representative of the Federation appeared on a panel of leaders qualified to discuss different topics relating to problems of cooperatives.

Speakers are provided civic groups and business organizations to discuss cooperatives and to take part in debates on various cooperative activities.

The Federation has assisted in the organization of new cooperatives and in the reorganization of existing ones.

Conferences are held with Texas Farm Bureau Federation, Texas Home Demonstration Association, Texas Power Electric Reserve Cooperative, and Texas State Grange, and many of the farm programs in the State are framed by the joint planning of these organizations. Texas Federation of Cooperatives and Texas Farm Bureau exchange representatives at their board meetings.

Conferences also are held with State Extension Service and specific programs developed by the Extension Service - such as the seven-step cotton program - receive joint support. In 1947 the executive secretary of the Federation was named on the Planning and Organization Committee to develop ways and means of setting up and carrying out the program. He was also named to the Rural Health Committee of the American Medical Association in Texas.

Youth programs for teaching the principles of cooperation to 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers Chapters, and veteran-students classes are now being developed by the Federation.

A mimeographed bulletin, *The Texas Situation*, which carries current items of cooperatives activities in the State and happenings in the national field affecting, or of interest to, cooperatives is published monthly by the Federation. A printed leaflet, *Information Bulletin*, presents controversial topics and sets forth the cooperatives' side of the tax situation. Special letters and reports are prepared for distribution. Occasional articles appear in house organs of cooperative organizations. Approximately 3,000 individuals and organizations make up the Federation's mailing list.

A more general publication for all members of all cooperatives is now being contemplated. It would cover a wider range of current subjects and serve as an educational medium to the small association not equipped to issue information through bulletins and releases.

The organization of the Texas Federation of Cooperatives took place June 13, 1942.. Farm leaders from local and regional cooperatives with representatives from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, Texas Extension Service, and Houston Bank for Cooperatives began laying plans in March 1942 for the formation of the Federation. On August 12 of that year the Federation, with representatives from 10 regional and federated cooperatives and nine local cooperative members, held its first annual meeting.

Membership is open to cooperative associations or federations which subscribe to the fundamental principles of cooperation. Social organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations not cooperative in form but interested in the promotion of cooperation are admitted to fraternal membership, which is comparable to associate or advisory membership provided for by other State councils.

The one vote per member is adopted except for the fraternal member, who has no voting privilege but may attend all meetings. All votes must be cast in person. In addition to the voting representative, each member is entitled to an additional delegate for each 500 members above the first 500.

A local association, a member of a federation already a member, may also take out a membership on its own account.

The administration of the Federation is in the hands of a board of directors, the number of which may not be less than 7 or more than 11, including the president and vice-president. At present the maximum number serves on the board. Board members serve for 3-year terms with one-third of them elected each year. Officers are elected annually.

From their number the directors elect an executive committee of three which usually functions only on routine business or in emergencies. The board also employs an executive secretary.

A supervisory committee of 14 to advise and assist in promoting the affairs of the Federation is appointed annually by the board of directors - one member of the committee is selected from each of the 14 districts of the State Extension Service.

At their annual meeting on November 4, 1947, members of the Federation changed their method of computing membership dues. The change was made by a resolution, to become effective January 1, 1948, pending formal change of the bylaws at the next annual or special meeting to make the plan permanent.

The plan follows:

- a. Local associations will pay not more than one-tenth of one percent of their annual gross dollar volume of business from all sources as reflected in their financial statements for the preceding fiscal year as dues for Federation membership, provided

however, that the minimum dues for such local association shall be not less than \$25 nor more than \$300 per year, and further provided that any local association having an annual gross dollar volume of business from all sources of less than \$300,000, as reflected in their financial statements for the preceding year, shall pay not more than one-tenth of one percent of 75 percent of such gross dollar volume of business as Federation membership dues.

- b. Regional or federated type cooperatives will pay not more than one-tenth of one percent of their annual gross dollar volume of business from all sources as reflected in their financial statements for the preceding fiscal year as dues for Federation membership, provided however that the minimum dues for such regional or federated association shall be not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000 per year.
- c. Those organizations, either local associations or regional organizations, operating on a commission or brokerage basis, where such charges to the patrons are based on a fixed amount per physical unit of the commodity handled, shall pay as yearly dues for Federation membership a sum which shall be determined by the Federation Board of Directors, and which shall reflect a percentum charge per unit of the commodity handled, which shall be mutually acceptable to both the Federation directors and the association concerned, keeping in mind that such assessment shall be equitable with payments made by other member associations.

The board may accept contribution in any amount from any of its members over and above the required amount, or from any other organization or individual who wishes to make a contribution to aid in the work on the Federation.

UTAH COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

Education in agricultural cooperation and public relations are the two most important phases of the program of the Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Legislative matters, however, receive more attention since the council's Legal and Tax Committee was appointed in 1946.

Although the budget of the council does not provide for a full-time secretary, the organization carries on a very active program. Through its monthly meetings and oftentimes joint meetings with other farm organizations it plans and devises means - on a surprisingly small budget - to aid in the development and maintenance of soundly planned cooperatives in the State.

In 1946, the council suggested that the Farm Credit Administration make a study of farm supply purchasing in the State. The purpose of the study was to obtain information for developing a program to coordinate the supply activities of cooperatives and thus serve farmers in the most

efficient manner. As a result of the study several meetings were held to consider the possibilities of establishing one large cooperative wholesale association.

Considerable effort has been given by the council to help affiliate various small fruit cooperatives into one State organization, thereby improving their marketing and purchasing facilities.

During the past year the council participated in meetings with Utah State Agricultural College and U. S. Department of Agriculture officials for considering provisions of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, and made recommendations regarding research projects on various commodities to be undertaken.

Some work has been done through vocational agricultural teachers and 4-H Clubs to stimulate the teaching of agricultural cooperation in the schools and colleges. Last fall the council planned to sponsor a short course in cooperative marketing at the State Agricultural College, but lack of housing facilities caused a delay. Now that conditions are improving the council will sponsor an annual course.

Public speaking contests have been held to interest farm youth in agricultural cooperatives, and tours have been made to different cooperatives so farm boys and girls can learn the general setup and operations of cooperative organizations. The council plans to enlarge this phase of its program. To improve its public relations, a speakers' bureau composed of key men from farm cooperatives was organized to fill speaking engagements with civic clubs and community organizations.

In 1947, in cooperation with the Berkeley Bank for Cooperatives and American Institute of Cooperation, the council sponsored a cooperative clinic for directors, managers, and employees of farm cooperatives. Plans have been made to hold a clinic each year.

Since May 1946, the secretary of the council has contributed a column, "Keeping Up With Farmer Cooperatives," to the *Utah Farmer*, a farm paper which is published twice a month and has a circulation of about 20,000. A mimeographed bulletin is issued monthly to keep members abreast of all news of interest to cooperatives. In addition pamphlets and circular letters on special subjects are issued as needed.

The Legal and Tax Committee of the council consists mainly of attorneys and auditors representing various cooperatives. The committee considers existing laws and proposed legislation relating to cooperatives, and serves as a clearing house on all legal and tax problems. In addition to this committee a special committee of three was appointed to help the secretary prepare factual information about cooperatives. Then this could be used to counteract unfavorable publicity which has been directed against cooperatives. This committee also has kept in touch with various bills in the legislature.

Although the council maintains no radio program, it has aided in obtaining farm broadcasts, and representatives of the council appear on radio programs of other sponsorship.

The Utah Council of Farmer Cooperatives has been in operation six years. It was organized and incorporated under the cooperative law of Utah in March 1946. It has both active and associate memberships. Any agricultural cooperative association performing a marketing, purchasing, or general farm service for its members is eligible for active membership. General farm organizations, representatives of educational institutions, and other public or semipublic agencies interested in the success of cooperatives may become associate members.

In June 1947, the council had 30 active members and 5 associate members. Each member is entitled to two or more representatives in business meetings, but only to one vote. An associate member may have two representatives with no voting power. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

The activities of the council are financed by annual membership fees. The amount of the fee is based on volume of business of the prior fiscal year - \$5 minimum fee, and \$5 additional for each \$100,000 or major fraction thereof in excess of \$200,000, but not to exceed \$25. Each associate member pays \$5 annually.

The affairs of the council are conducted by a board of seven directors, which meets on call. Each member serves for 3 years.

Originally, it was planned to hold a meeting of the board of directors once a month in Salt Lake City. Since the city is a central point for most of the cooperatives operating in the State, cooperative leaders - in addition to the board members - felt the need of meeting together there once a month. For a time both groups met for 2 or 3 hours on the second Monday of each month to discuss current problems. Now there is a tendency toward quarterly meetings.

The council works closely with Utah State Farm Bureau, whose executive secretary rarely misses a council meeting. Working relationships have been established with Utah State Agricultural College and the State Department of Agriculture. As a result of the close coordination of the work of the council and that of the Extension Service of the State College, the Extension Marketing Specialist serves the council as secretary.

There has been some discussion regarding the organization of county councils which would be affiliated with the State organization. The council now is considering plans for enlarging its budget which will take care of a contemplated expansion of its program.

ARIZONA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

Since its formation on January 27, 1943, the Arizona Cooperative Council worked closely with the Arizona Department of Vocational Education.

In 1943, the council and the Department of Vocational Education jointly sponsored a course in cooperative marketing and purchasing for farmers. The course not only covered the principles and practices of cooperatives in the United States, but embodied information on the cooperative movement in Canada, the British Isles, and Sweden. The members of the council and the Vo-ag teachers united their efforts in forming study courses for the farmers throughout the State. The courses were to continue for 12 sessions in successive weeks, but were shortened to eight sessions. Owing to the shortage of manpower that developed, the farmers found little time after their long working hours to take the courses and they were set aside.

The council was represented on the Agricultural Planning Committee of the Arizona Resources and Planning Board which has been working on the postwar problems of cooperatives.

In recognition of the functions of the council, the Arizona State Federation of Labor requested the council's assistance in preparing a series of articles on cooperatives. These appeared in their paper, *Arizona Labor Journal*. The Federation of Labor in Arizona has been interested in getting cooperative activities under way among labor groups.

The membership of the council is made up of cooperative associations owned and controlled by farmers. Associate memberships are open to organizations or representatives of public and semipublic agencies interested in the success of the cooperative movement.

No recent information has been obtained from the council, but at the close of 1944, it had 13 members. The Arizona Department of Vocational Education was an associate member.

The affairs of the council are managed by a board of seven directors, including the president, the two vice-presidents, and the secretary-treasurer. The directors are divided into three groups so as to stagger the elections. Directors in each group serve terms of 3 years without compensation, except for necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings.

In all business sessions of the council each member is entitled to two representatives, but to one vote only. Associate members may participate in the meetings, but they have no voting power.

The council is supported by membership dues as follows: Each member cooperative having 200 members or less pays \$10 per year, and each cooperative having more than 200 members pays \$25. Associate members each pay \$10 a year.

The activities of the council have been somewhat curtailed since 1944, but some new programs are under way. The council employs a part-time secretary.

LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

The Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives was organized in February 1943, to encourage the sound development of agricultural cooperatives in Louisiana.

More than three-fourths of the activities of the council are directed towards informational and educational work. In the last 2 years more attention has been given to legislation pertaining to cooperatives and to a program designed to meet the vigorous campaign against farmers' business organizations by certain organized noncooperative groups.

A cooperative clinic for managers, directors, and members of cooperatives was sponsored in 1945, with the New Orleans Bank for Cooperatives.

In 1944, the council made a complete census of agricultural cooperatives in the State. This census gave the headquarters of each cooperative and the type of commodity handled, or service rendered. It is the plan of the council to bring the information up to date from time to time.

Programs offered by the Extension Service, Experiment Station, State Marketing Commission, and other agricultural agencies receive full cooperation from the council. Representatives of the council work closely with the cooperative marketing specialist on organizational and educational programs and special meetings. Many of the educational programs are with 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America leaders, and the council intends to give more attention to this phase of work.

In December 1947, the council had 20 regular members and 50 associate members. The associate members represent 15 organizations interested in agricultural cooperation.

Any agricultural cooperative owned and controlled by farmers is eligible for regular membership. General farm organizations, representatives of educational agencies, and other public and semipublic agencies which are interested in furthering agricultural cooperation may become associate members. Associate membership is good for 1 year only. The roster of associate members must be considered each year by the board of directors and reelections made as desired.

Each member has one representative with voting power on the council - and all voting must be done in person. Associate members are not permitted to vote, but they may attend all meetings and participate in the discussions.

The membership fee is based on the volume of business of the member association for the last fiscal year as follows: \$25 minimum fee and \$12.50 additional for each \$100,000, or fraction thereof, in excess of \$200,000, but not to exceed \$100. An associate member is not required to pay any fee, but may contribute funds to assist the council in carrying on its work.

The organization is managed by a board of seven directors, including the president and vice-president, elected for 1 year. From these, an executive committee of three, including the president as chairman, is appointed to serve as prescribed by the board. No one is paid for services he renders the council.

The council does not employ a secretary. At one time the assistant executive secretary of the Louisiana Agricultural Cooperatives, Inc., served as secretary, and at present a staff member of the agricultural college serves in this capacity.

Periodic newsletters, special releases, and bulletins, and printed materials are issued to keep members informed of current developments in agriculture, particularly those relating to agricultural cooperation. Occasionally, the council provides information for radio programs and supplies news articles for the press.

A digest of acts, applying specifically to agriculture in the State, passed by the State legislature and approved by the Governor, is prepared by the council and distributed to its members at the close of each session.

IOWA COUNCIL OF COOPERATION

The Iowa Council of Cooperation does not engage in a large number of activities. It carries on some educational, informational, and legislative work. Each of its members, as a State-wide cooperative, furthers the work of spreading information.

In 1947, the Council joined Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming in a four-State cooperative clinic at Lincoln, Nebraska. The clinic was sponsored by the American Institute of Cooperation, Omaha Bank for Cooperatives, and several other organizations. Competent speakers discussed cooperative law, taxation, public relations, and membership relations.

Circular letters keep the council members informed on the more important happenings of interest to cooperatives. Releases from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the National Association of Cooperatives are distributed to members.

The Iowa Council of Cooperation was formed on November 25, 1944. Any State-wide or regional agricultural cooperative or corporation organized on a cooperative plan, agricultural society, or any group of Iowa cooperatives not represented by a State or regional cooperative but by a representative selected by the members of the group, is eligible for membership. The organization follows the one-vote-per-member policy, and all votes must be cast in person. The council does not provide any provisions for associate members.

The business of the council is handled by a board of seven directors, each member serving for 3 years. The election of directors is staggered so that one-third of the board is elected each year. The organization

does not employ a full-time secretary. The activities of the council are financed by assessments made against members.

KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

The Kansas Cooperative Council has had 3 years of successful operations. Formed in 1944, it has extended its services to cooperatives in Kansas through a three-point program - research and education, public relations, and legislative activities. The work has been carried on through meetings, surveys, radio broadcasts, institutes, exhibits, co-op week programs, news bulletins, and personal contacts.

For 6 months, beginning with January 1947, the council conducted weekly radio broadcasts under the title, "Voice of the Co-ops." The broadcasts covered every phase of the cooperative movement in the State and about 40 people participated in the programs, which consisted of talks, interviews, and panel discussions. These programs were planned to present the philosophy, significance, and practices of cooperatives and to give the general public a more complete understanding of cooperation.

Every fall, the council has held a series of local institutes over the State for managers, directors, and patrons of cooperatives. The meetings were open to all farmers and urban business men and served a two-fold purpose. Cooperatives received information for handling their everyday problems and the business group learned about cooperative business and its contribution to the community welfare.

The governor of Kansas now sets aside a week in each year in which cooperatives and their contribution to the general economy are featured. During this week, the Kansas Cooperative Council sponsors community and State programs and encourages local cooperatives to plan community meetings, co-op picnics, radio broadcasts, contests, and advertising programs. Literature on cooperatives is made available to the general public by the council and the local organizations. In one co-op week, prizes were offered for the best essay entitled "The Story of Our Cooperative." The contest was open to both young people and adults.

The council annually houses exhibits of cooperatives in a big tent at the State fair. These help the public to understand cooperative enterprise and they promote better public relations.

The research department of the council was enlarged in 1945 to provide better working facilities. Several studies for which information was collected from all the cooperatives in the State have been made. Material for distribution to farmers and others is assembled from Government departments, educational institutions, and large cooperative associations.

In the latter part of 1947, the council in cooperation with the Bureau of Business Research and Extension Division of the University of Kansas and the Extension Service of Kansas State College began a State-wide survey of cooperatives in Kansas. The study will give the history of

Kansas cooperatives, types of cooperatives, volume of business, membership, and other items of interest. It will be published in book form. A chapter will be devoted to the evaluation of cooperatives in Kansas and another will present future trends and possibilities of cooperatives in the State. The book will be placed in libraries, high schools, and colleges throughout the State.

In 1945, a legal and tax committee was formed to furnish information on legal matters relating to cooperatives. This committee keeps in close contact with the State legislature and with Kansas representatives in Congress, and provides them with information on cooperatives to be used in preparing legislation.

The council issues a bulletin on cooperative information twice a month and news releases on special matters are prepared whenever needed.

The Kansas Cooperative Council was formed on July 3, 1944, largely to counteract the attack that was being made on cooperatives regarding the payment of a tax on patronage refunds. In August 1945 a group of 40 cooperative leaders met to determine a future program for coordinating the activities of farmers' cooperatives within the State. After setting up a definite program, the group recommended that the Kansas Cooperative Council be the coordinating agency. As a result the program of the council was broadened to cover all phases of cooperative activity.

Until the bylaws were amended in March 1945 to admit local cooperatives to membership, only general farm organizations, State-wide cooperatives, and regional cooperatives could become affiliated with the council. In July 1947, the council had a membership of three general farm organizations, 13 State-wide and regional cooperatives, the latter embracing about 500 local associations. The council has no provision for associate membership.

Each member is entitled to one vote in all business affairs, and this vote must be cast in person by a duly appointed representative of each member.

The council was incorporated with a \$1,000 capital and a fee of \$10 was required from a member. An amendment of the bylaws in 1945 provided for financing as follows:

<u>Local cooperatives</u>		<u>Regional cooperatives</u>	
<u>Net savings last</u> <u>fiscal year</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Net savings last</u> <u>fiscal year</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Up to \$20,000.....	\$20	Up to \$150,000.....	\$400
\$20,000 to \$30,000.....	30	\$150,000 to \$450,000..	600
\$30,000 to \$40,000.....	40	\$450,000 and over.....	750
\$40,000 to \$50,000.....	50		
\$50,000 and over.....	75		

A board of seven directors, the president, and the vice-president, conduct the activities of the council. Each director is paid for attending meetings, actual traveling expenses, and \$10 a day. The board employs an executive secretary to carry on the details of the business, and other personnel may be employed as needed.

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

South Dakota Association of Cooperatives has just completed its third year. Organized and incorporated October 2, 1944, under the South Dakota State laws, the association has made great headway in its purpose to promote and represent the interests of all cooperatives in the State. Through surveys, educational exhibits, promotional programs, clinics, and meetings, it not only has helped cooperatives to work together and develop, but it has helped establish a better understanding of their contribution to our economy.

In 1946 and 1947, the association sponsored a number of cooperative clinics for managers, directors, attorneys, accountants, and others. Some of these clinics were held in cooperation with American Institute Cooperation, Omaha Bank for Cooperatives, and American Institute of Accountants. Legal, accounting, labor, and public relations problems were discussed by speakers well-versed in these subjects.

Cooperative educational exhibits have been arranged and displayed at county fairs, State fairs, and crop shows. The association also has prepared suggestions for county councils to use in planning exhibits at local events.

The association is devoting a large part of its programs to public relations. Representatives have participated in round table discussion programs at meetings of American Association of University Women, during Farm and Home Week, and at State press conventions. Cooperative talks have been made before civic clubs, county teachers' institutes, farm institutes, 4-H Clubs, and high schools. A cooperative educational and public relations advertising program has been underway in the principal agricultural counties of the State. The majority of the 240 weekly and daily papers have carried columns telling what cooperatives are, why they are needed, how they operate, and what they contribute to the community and our economy in general.

A survey was made of farm cooperatives in the State and a report showing the type and number of associations was incorporated in the association's bulletin of January 2, 1946. More than 250 cooperatives were visited by the association in compiling this information.

The association works with college and school officials in planning cooperative educational and research programs. It recommended that teaching cooperative information be included in the study of business organizations, and that misleading statements about cooperatives in textbooks and other books used in the school be corrected.

Cooperative picnics sponsored by local associations and county co-operative councils are encouraged by the State association. These picnics are of the family-type with varied programs of music, stunts, talks, and contests. A number have been held and they have proved very popular.

Several methods are used to distribute information - meetings, exhibits, bulletin-type letters, advertising programs, and newspaper articles. Much of this information is prepared by the association. Material on income tax, history of cooperatives, contributions of cooperatives to the general economy, and suggestions for local and county programs have been distributed to managers and directors.



The board of directors of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives at a meeting at Watertown, South Dakota, November 13, 1947, are seriously attacking a few tough problems that need to be ironed out.

Both local and regional farm cooperatives in South Dakota organized under the laws of the State are eligible for membership. There are no provisions for associate members, but the association works very closely with such other organizations as Council of Agriculture, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, Grange, and South Dakota State College. In July 1947, the council had 153 local members.

The association is managed by a board of nine directors. Four of these members make up the executive committee which acts on behalf of the board between directors' meetings. An executive secretary and treasurer carries on the business.

South Dakota is one of the few States in which county councils have been formed. The county councils depend largely upon the State association for educational guidance and aid in the coordination of inter-county activities.

TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

Practically all the activities of the Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives are devoted to educational work. The activities during its 3 years of operation have been somewhat limited because of a small membership and an inadequate budget. In the early part of 1947, the council was considering increasing its membership and providing for a larger budget. If these steps are taken, a broader program can be established and a full-time secretary employed.

The council has been closely associated with some of the departments of the University of Tennessee and, as a result of the coordination of their educational programs, the marketing specialist of the Department

of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology has been serving, without compensation, as secretary to the council.

In 1947, the council in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Tennessee, sponsored "co-op clinics" for managers, directors, and members of cooperatives. The council frequently participates in programs offered by the Extension Service.

The Tennessee Farm Bureau has been encouraged by the council to undertake the development of marketing and purchasing cooperatives. Some attention is now being given to the organization and improvement of farmers' organizations in different parts of the State.

Although very little time has been devoted to seeking equitable laws for cooperatives, the council has acted in many instances in obtaining some favorable recognition of the rights of cooperatives. Just recently it opposed an amendment to the Tennessee Cooperative Marketing Law which would require cooperatives to pay privilege license for handling supplies.

The Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives is the second organization for coordinating the activities of farmer cooperatives set up in the State. In 1931, the Tennessee Council of Agriculture was formed. It was organized to promote the interests of farmers in general, and its program was not devoted entirely to cooperatives. The functions of this body were discontinued after a few years.

The organization of the Tennessee Council of Farmer Cooperatives took place in April 1944. Membership is open to farmers' marketing, purchasing, and farm service cooperatives, and in 1947, 10 associations were members. General farm organizations, representatives of educational agencies, and other public and semi-public organizations interested in promoting the cooperative movement are eligible for associate membership. Associate membership is good for only 1 year as the roster of eligibles is considered each year by the board of directors. So far the council has not had any associate members.

In all elections, each member is entitled to one vote, either in person or by proxy. Associate members have no voting privileges.

According to the bylaws each member is required to pay in advance an annual organization fee of \$25, and in addition annual dues based on the gross volume of business for the last fiscal year preceding the due date of the organization fee. Up to the present, this method of providing funds has not been put into practice, but plans are under way for its adoption.

Special assessments may be levied by the board subject to unanimous approval of the members. According to the bylaws, associate members are not required to pay any fee, but they may contribute funds to help carry on the activities of the council.

A board of nine directors, including the president and vice-president, conduct the business. Each member serves for 3 years and the elections are staggered so that there will be experienced men on the board at all

times. The board may appoint an executive committee of three to carry on some of the duties but as yet no committee has been found necessary. The directors receive no compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary travel.

The council keeps its members informed of current happenings in the field of agricultural cooperation through bulletins and news letters.

VERMONT COOPERATIVE COUNCIL INC.

The current program of the Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc. consists largely of work with the State Department of Education in planning a cooperative business course for high schools. A special curriculum committee set up by the State supervisor of high schools is now working on a study on cooperatives to be offered in the course of social studies. The study unit will be based on the history, the extent and the economic importance of cooperatives in Vermont.

In the past 2 years the council has been active in organizing credit unions. In 1946, the former manager of the Credit Union National Association joined the staff of the council to help organize local credit unions. Under his direction 22 credit unions have been formed. In 1947 their assets built up from members' savings amounted to over \$100,000. About half of these local unions are in rural areas where loans are made to farmer members for the purchase of farm supplies, repairs on homes and farm buildings, purchase of trucks and farm machinery, and other things needed in the farmers' homes and for the production of their crops.

In 1945 the council was joint sponsor with Goddard College at Plainfield of a cooperative week held at the college. The program consisted of talks, discussions, sports, crafts, and recreation.

Vermont is one of the States in which the achievements of cooperatives receive recognition. In 1947, the governor proclaimed September as the month for the observance of cooperatives and their contribution to the economy of the State. This recognition of cooperatives was brought about through the efforts of the council. During the month the State government, the press, the radio, churches and schools, service organizations, and cooperatives and their functions to the community. The council furnished speakers, supplied information of some form for special meetings and public gatherings, and advised members on the preparation of programs to be presented locally on the significance of cooperatives.

In 1947 the council, in cooperation with the American Institute of Cooperation, conducted a 4-day co-op clinic at Stowe. Competent speakers discussed important present-day problems of cooperatives and ways of meeting them.



Governor Ernest W. Gibson of Vermont, third from the left, has just proclaimed September as co-op month in the State for 1947. During co-op month, the council and its members take an active part in recognizing cooperatives and their achievements.

A close working relationship with the State Extension Service resulted in the joint sponsorship and planning of meetings and the preparation of special programs. The council also works with the Vermont Farm Bureau, Vermont Grange, American Institute of Cooperation, and National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

The council has never sponsored any contests or programs to stimulate the interest of the young farm members in cooperation, but it encourages its member associations to carry on such programs locally.

Educational work among members is largely through news letters, radio broadcasts, newspaper articles, and meetings. The council does not conduct a radio program of its own, but it prepares information to be used on broadcasts sponsored by other organizations. A monthly column, "Co-ops in the News" by the executive secretary appears in the *Vermont Farm Bureau News* which reaches about 20,000 families in the State. "Co-ops Briefs," a news letter issued monthly, gives managers and directors the latest information relating to cooperatives and other current news of interest to leaders of cooperatives.

Some time has been given to a legislative program. The council follows the sessions of the State legislature for any action affecting cooperatives.

Lack of educational facilities of the small cooperatives caused the formation of the Vermont Cooperative Council, Inc. It was incorporated November 15, 1944, under the Vermont State law. Its membership is open to any cooperative association operating in the State and accepted by the board of directors.

The membership in July 1947 totaled 39 cooperatives, the majority composed of farmers' marketing associations. The council has no provision for associate or advisory members.

Requirements for membership dues have been increased for marketing cooperatives from 20 cents a year for each member to 40 cents. All other member associations pay only 10 cents a year for each member. In addition to membership fees the council receives a \$5,000 grant from a goodwill fund.

The executive responsibility of the council rests with a board of nine directors, who meet bimonthly. An executive secretary carries on the details of the business.

A board of auditors, elected at each annual meeting and consisting of three members, none of whom is a member of the board of directors, is responsible for an annual audit of the accounts of the council.

The council plans to continue its educational work with its members, to arrange for more radio programs, and to develop its work with the State Department of Education.

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

In July 1947 the Wisconsin Association of Cooperatives had a membership of 235 cooperative associations. Organized in August 1944 largely to counteract the attempt that was being made to weaken cooperatives, the Wisconsin Association of Cooperatives has been developing an extensive legislative program. By 1947 this program had been broadened, so that legislative matters, educational activities, and public relations work each were receiving about an equal amount of attention.

WAC has given a great deal of consideration to legislation permitting cooperatives to set up prepaid medical and hospitalization groups. In cooperation with other organizations in the State it sponsored the cooperative health bill, which was passed and became effective in July 1947.

In 1946, and again in 1947, at the beginning of the year about 10 co-op institutes were held throughout the State. The programs stressed the need for correct bylaws and articles of incorporation, proper accounting procedures, cooperation among cooperatives, and the development of public relations. In the fall of 1946 a series of county-wide meetings were held in an effort to unite the cooperatives to combat the attacks aimed at cooperative business.

Following these meetings WAC has met with the boards and management of a number of cooperatives to help straighten out their accounting systems

and distribution of earnings. Articles of incorporation and bylaws were examined and corrected to conform with cooperative principles.

In its public relations program, WAC made available to local cooperatives and newspapers a mat service of institutional advertising. The mat was available in sizes from a few columns to full page ads. In the first series 36 newspapers used them with over 200 cooperatives sponsoring the service. The second series was just as effective.

Co-op week programs and contests have been sponsored for farm boys and girls in an effort to prepare them to take part in cooperative business activities and also to teach them to assume certain responsibilities as young citizens in the community. Representatives of WAC also met with boys and girls in youth camps.

The Department of Research and Education of WAC is completing a 1947 yearbook, *Cooperatives in Wisconsin*. This yearbook was first issued in 1946. It presents information in regard to the cooperatives in the State - number, size of membership, capital, volume of business, amount of savings, and facts regarding the functions and benefits of cooperative business.

A weekly news release, *As the Cooperative Sees It*, is sent to all State newspapers and radio stations. As its name implies, it gives news from the cooperative point of view. Bulletins and special releases give information to co-op papers throughout the country, as well as to member cooperatives.

Another booklet, *Personal Gain or Mutual Benefit*, also was prepared in 1946. It contains helpful and factual information on the principles of cooperation. Other pamphlets are in the process of preparation.

The records at the close of 1946 showed that WAC had sent out 16,307 bulletins, 1,750 booklets, 7,707 news releases, 11,769 special letters, and 2,808 meeting notices.

WAC does not maintain any radio program, but helps to prepare scripts for use in radio broadcasts of other organizations. Some of its representatives also make occasional appearances on these programs.

Membership in the council is open to any cooperative association organized under the cooperative law and licensed to do business in Wisconsin, corporations which do business on a cooperative basis and can be converted into cooperatives, credit unions, farm loan associations, production credit associations, town mutual insurance companies, and farmers mutual insurance companies.

Each member has one vote which must be cast in person. The expenditures incurred in carrying on the activities of WAC are met by base and excess

fees required of members. A base fee is computed on the annual gross volume of business of each member in accordance with the following schedule:

(1)	<u>Annual volume</u>	<u>Fee</u>
	Less than \$50,000.....	\$25
	\$50,000 - \$74,999.....	50
	\$75,000 - \$99,999.....	75
	\$100,000 and over.....	100

plus

- (2) a fee equal to one-tenth of one mill on each dollar of gross sales of business transacted by the member during its last completed fiscal year preceding its date of application;
- (3) in the event the annual net earnings or savings of the member during the fiscal year is less than \$1,000 then the base fee does not apply. In no event is the membership fee less than \$5, or greater than \$100.

The management and control of WAC is vested in a board of 15 directors, including the president and vice-president, elected annually, eight of whom are designated as district directors and seven as directors-at-large. The district directors are nominated and elected by the members, one from each of eight geographical districts determined for the purpose of nominations. After the eight district directors are elected, they nominate the candidates for directors-at-large, seven of whom are then elected by the members. Each director receives \$5 per day or part day, plus expenses for meals and lodging, and 5 cents per mile for distance traveled to attend board meetings.

An executive committee of three, elected by the directors from their number, acts on behalf of the board during the interval between board meetings. The directors employ an executive secretary who manages the business activities of the association.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

Set up in March 1945 as a department of the State Farm Bureau - an outgrowth of the Cooperative Public and Labor Relations Service of the Bureau - the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives has worked to coordinate and harmonize the work of marketing and purchasing farm cooperatives in Michigan. This union between the cooperatives and the Farm Bureau organization has proved to be of mutual benefit and has enabled each to give more satisfactory service to Michigan farmers.

The MAFC has helped organize and maintain cooperatives, helped improve employee and public relations activities, promoted educational methods and procedures, conducted business research for cooperatives, represented the cooperatives in legislative matters, and assisted in the organization of county cooperative councils.

At the request of local cooperative groups special aid has been given marketing and purchasing organizations throughout the State. A number of organizations generally known as cooperatives, but not functioning as such, has been given assistance in working out cooperative methods. Accounting problems and labor difficulties also have received attention.

For the purpose of bringing about a better understanding of cooperatives, contacts have been established with business and educational groups. In 1946, representatives attended about 10 of the Goodwill Conferences sponsored by the Michigan Council of Churches, in which business men, educational leaders, and the clergy met to improve community and State relations.

The staff has appeared on several public forums. Among these were two important meetings - one sponsored by the Association of University Women and the other conducted by the Michigan Council of Churches in cooperation with the Western Michigan College of Education. These forums furnish an opportunity for each group to present its philosophy and to compare the merits of its program with those of other groups.

A speakers' bureau was created by the association, thereby making available cooperative speakers for luncheon clubs, civic groups, and various other groups of rural and urban people to present information about farm cooperatives.

Radio broadcasts have been made over the Michigan State College Station. On the fourth Thursday of each month during 1945 and 1946, a special cooperative program was given. News releases were sent to almost 300 weekly papers and to about 50 daily papers and magazines. For several weeks during the past year the association had paid advertising in a number of local papers circulated in the more thickly settled areas of the State.

Educational activities have formed an important part of the association's program. One of the most important was the sponsorship of a co-op speaking contest in cooperation with the Michigan chapter of the Future Farmers of America. Students from all parts of the State participated - winners in local groups entering district contests and the district winners competing for State prizes. The district winners were conducted on a tour of State cooperatives and the State winners toured cooperatives outside the State. Plans have been made to hold this contest annually.

In 1946, cooperative clinics for employees and members of co-ops were held in 14 cities. These clinics gave basic principles of the cooperative business and emphasized the responsibility of employees and members in making their cooperative a successful enterprise in the community. Area and State-wide clinics were held to discuss cooperative accounting terminology, auditing, and government report forms. Among those who attended were certified public accountants, cooperative managers and directors, cooperative employees, and farm credit specialists.

The MAFC proposes to give its members further services along these lines. It has arranged with auditors of cooperative organizations to make comparative summaries of the balance sheets and operating statements of cooperatives. These will be presented to the managers and directors of its member associations at clinics to be held throughout the State. The association hopes that this exchange of information may result in improved business activities and services to farmers.

A movie service is maintained by MAFC to show films on farm cooperation, a survey is being conducted to determine the interest in and possibility of a movie on cooperatives in Michigan.

In 1946 about 36,000 pieces of cooperative literature were distributed. Many were prepared by the association. A news letter is sent out twice a month to keep members and cooperative leaders acquainted with all information of interest to farmer cooperatives.

Through the Farm Bureau legislative action committees information on the programs and activities of cooperatives has been given to legislators, thus bringing about favorable legislation and oftentimes preventing harmful measures.

Michigan is one of the few States in which county cooperative councils have been organized. The State leaders seek local viewpoints and believe that many activities should be sponsored by the community. It is here they feel that public relations and educational programs can be stimulated and promoted to the best advantage. At the close of June 1947, 50 of the 83 counties had cooperative councils. This area covers the farming districts of the lower peninsula. The MAFC has helped organize these local councils. The activities of the county groups are supplementary to those of the State council.

The policies and activities of the MAFC are directed by an administrative council acting upon the authority of the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The council consists of one representative each from cooperative federations, commodity organizations, and general farm organizations, which have full membership in the association; and one representative for each 25 members, or the major number, of the local cooperatives, which are full members of the association. The officers of the council consist of chairman, vice-chairman, and executive secretary-treasurer.

An executive committee consisting of the officers of the council and the heads of the committees conducts the business activities of the association. At the present time the association has four committees - public relations, labor relations, membership, and business services.

Full membership in MAFC is limited to "agricultural cooperatives organized and operating within the limitations of all Federal acts and regulations concerning cooperatives and the various State acts under which such cooperatives are organized." Cooperative organizations which cannot fulfill these requirements may become associate members. At the close of June 1947, the MAFC had 156 members and 17 associate members.



The members attending the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives in 1947 seemed absorbed in the annual report, which J. F. Yaeger, assistant executive secretary, is reading.

Each subscriber of the association with dues paid at the time of the meeting, is entitled to one vote in the annual meeting. Some voting may be done by proxy.

The association is financed by subscriptions which are rated according to the type and size of the member associations. The schedule of subscriptions is as follows:

Local cooperatives

<u>Business volume</u>	<u>Annual subscription</u>
Less than \$100,000.....	\$50 - \$75
\$100,000 to \$200,000.....	75 - 100
200,000 to 400,000.....	150 - 200
400,000 to 700,000.....	250 - 300
700,000 to 1,000,000.....	400 - 500
1,000,000 or more.....	600 - 750

Commodity federations

<u>Name of association</u>	<u>Annual subscription</u>
First group.....	\$750 - \$1,000
Second group.....	1,000 - 1,500
Third group.....	3,500

Each member cooperative has the privilege of subscribing for a particular activity of the association, but then is entitled to receive services only with the limits of that particular activity. Subscriptions are requested to be pledged for a period of at least 3 years so that the association may plan its program on a long time basis.

In 1947, Michigan was one of the four States in which a special time was designated for observance of achievements and contributions of cooperatives. "Co-op Month" was proclaimed by the Governor of the State for special recognition of cooperatives in the State. During this period the MAFC, the county councils, and farm organizations increased their activities to set different programs in motion. Radio broadcasts, newspaper articles, town-and-country get-togethers, and special programs made farm and town people conscious of cooperatives and their contributions to the community and to the State.

MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES (AAL)

Farmer cooperatives in Mississippi coordinate their activities through the Mississippi Council of Farmer Cooperatives (AAL). The council was organized April 27, 1945. At the end of 1947, 99 cooperatives, owned and controlled by farmers, made up the membership.

The activities of the MCFC are carried on by an educational director, who was employed by the council in July 1947. Almost three-fourths of the work of the council is given over to educational programs, including public relations. A little more than one-fourth is devoted to legislative work.

The council works with the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, (AAL), Mississippi Services, Inc., (AAL), Mississippi Federated Cooperatives, Central Farmers Exchange, State Fair Association, Extension Service of the Mississippi State College, State Department of Agriculture, and the vocational agricultural groups. It participates in the programs of the State Farm and Home Week at Mississippi State College, and takes an active interest in marketing and cooperative clinics.

A speakers' group made up of men who can authoritatively discuss cooperative business is being developed by the council. The members will fill speaking engagements with clubs, civic organizations, special meetings, and other public groups in all parts of the State.

News letters, bulletins, and folders are issued to keep members informed on current matters of interest. Articles and news items are contributed to the *Mississippi Farm Bureau News*, *The Mississippi Federated Cooperative News*, the *Central Farmers Exchange News*, and daily papers.

The affairs of the council are conducted by a board of nine directors, each serving for 2 years. The elections are so arranged that five directors are elected each year. A reasonable amount to cover expenses incurred, while transacting business for the council, is allowed each director. An executive committee of four members acts for the board between meetings.

The MCFC was organized on a capital stock basis. Each member organization is required to purchase a share of stock, which entitles the organization's representative to vote in all membership meetings. The value of a share of stock is \$10. Each member organization has only one vote, and all votes must be cast in person.

The activities of the council are financed through annual dues, based on the following schedule:

Minimum annual dues.....	\$25	Maximum annual dues.....	\$150
Gins.....	2¢ per bale		
REA.....	3¢ per consumer as of operating report, June 30, each year		
Oil Mills.....	\$20 per \$100,000 volume of gross sales		
Compresses.....	\$125 per \$100,000 volume of gross income		
Creameries.....	\$20 per \$100,000 gross sales		
Dehydration.....	\$20 per \$100,000 volume of gross sales		
Cold storage, meat curing, locker plants.....	\$25		
Production credit.....	\$10 per \$100,000 of loans outstanding June 30, of each year		
Federation, county co-ops, and exchange.....	\$25 for the first \$100,000 of purchases and sales to patrons, and \$25 per \$100,000 in proportion		

General farm organizations, representatives of educational agencies, and other public or semi-public agencies interested in furthering the cooperative movement may become associate members. Associate membership is for 1 year only. Each year the board of directors considers the roster of associate members and elects such associate members as it desires. Associate members have no voting privileges, but they may attend all meetings and participate in the discussions. They are not required to pay any membership fees, but they may contribute funds to assist the council in carrying on its programs.

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

The Minnesota Association of Cooperatives, now in its second year, has developed a comprehensive informational and public relations program and employs a full time staff to carry on its activities.

The MAC plans and encourages programs to be carried out at the county or local level. Each year in addition to its annual meeting about 30 district meetings are held, two in each of 15 districts. During the two

years cooperative displays were promoted and established at 15 county fairs and the State fair.

A speakers' bureau which provides competent speakers for cooperative meetings, commercial clubs, school groups, and community gatherings is maintained by the association. As a result of the close working relationship between the association and the Extension Service of the University of Minnesota, extension workers participate in the speakers' bureau and representatives of the association take part in extension programs.

A managers' training school at the University of Minnesota is sponsored jointly by the Extension Service and the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives to help local managers of cooperatives formulate and carry on education and public relations programs.

Plans are underway for carrying on contests and programs to encourage the interest of farm boys and girls in agricultural cooperation. The Minnesota Association joins the three general farm organizations in the State - Grange, Farm Bureau, and Farmers Union - in some of their projects.

Although MAC does not have a radio program of its own, it encourages regional cooperatives to plan and support programs. However, it does participate in public service programs sponsored by the radio stations. News items are given to newspaper editors and releases on cooperative activities are sent to all State papers through the Minnesota Editorial Association. Bulletins supplying information of interest to cooperatives are distributed to both members and nonmembers. Specially prepared literature on agricultural cooperation is furnished schools, ministers, business owners, and professional men.

Since its organization in December 1945, the association has built its membership to 150 cooperatives. The membership is open to regional and local cooperatives, federations of cooperatives, and such service organizations of farmers as county councils, credit unions, and mutual



A managers' training school held at the University of Minnesota is sponsored jointly by the Extension Service and the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives. The University invited managers with uniform training and experience from Minnesota and Wisconsin. The training officers are from two large cooperative associations.

insurance companies. The association has only voting members - there are no associate or advisory memberships.

Annual membership dues for each member are \$50. Regional and local co-operatives may agree to underwrite additional contributions, and several organizations have signed underwriting agreements. There also are charges for certain services which the association will furnish a member upon request.

The business activities of MAC are in charge of a board of nine directors, which meets regularly 4 times a year, and other meetings are held as required. Three of the directors make up an executive committee which acts for the board between meetings, and an executive secretary and his staff carries on the activities of the organization.

At present there are about 10 county councils in Minnesota, two of which are members of the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives.

Four people are employed by MAC at present. One staff member is a field organizer, another is in charge of the fair display program. The executive secretary does the administration work and initiates new projects and programs. From one to two office secretaries are employed.

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES

The Connecticut Council of Farmer Cooperatives was formed in 1945, but as the organization has not had a full time secretary, few activities have been carried on. Cooperative leaders interested in the welfare of the council have been able to devote little time to its activities.

The council did establish a legislative committee to study bills before the State legislature which affected cooperatives. It plans to do some educational work and establish a public relations program.

No information has been obtained on its membership, its administrative setup, or how it is financed. It is expected that when more time can be given to the activities of the council constructive programs will get underway.

NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL, INC.

A comprehensive and constructive program to promote unity among the cooperative organizations and develop the principles and philosophy of agricultural cooperation is well under way in Nebraska after the one year the Nebraska Cooperative Council has operated. Cooperative clinics, county and State fair exhibits, country-wide newspaper and advertising campaigns, and cooperative picnics have been sponsored by the council. Cordial relationships have been established with civic organizations.

Long range educational and public relations programs have been worked out with the farm associations, schools, and colleges in the State. The

council has set up a five point program to inform the public - those who are not members of cooperatives including public officials - and members of cooperatives.

1. Advertising - Local and State-wide informative advertising by radio and newspaper to clarify the public mind on the fundamentals and principles of agricultural cooperatives.
2. Education - Distribution of information by means of clinics and a speakers' bureau; suggest improvements in courses of study; stimulate cooperatives' sense of responsibility in the community; and make surveys for the purpose of improving cooperatives.
3. Public relations - Prepare pamphlets giving the cooperative story; submit news items, monthly column and feature stories to newspapers and periodicals; furnish information to cooperatives, educational groups and civic organizations; establish contacts and relationships with community, State, and national leaders; prepare exhibits, and slogans; and sponsor contests.
4. Cooperative unity - Encourage the formation of county cooperative councils; sponsor a "Cooperative Day"; interest all cooperatives in the program.
5. Legislation - Protect the cooperatives' position by getting correct information to public officials; keep in constant touch with the activities of the Nebraska legislature; support legislation favorable to the present and future development of cooperatives and oppose such legislation as is detrimental to cooperatives.

Much of the advertising is carried on by the counties, as the council has learned that this is less costly. "Trade with your Co-op" posters have been distributed and ads furnished by some of the larger cooperatives which have adequate budgets have been used to acquaint the public with cooperative business.

The council has been active in its educational program. Much work has been done with schools and colleges in selecting courses that will prepare rural youth for farm life. The secretary of the council has taken part in numerous Vocational Agriculture District Teachers' meetings and has worked with the county agricultural agents.

Through a chamber of commerce survey the council learned of the attitude of the general public toward cooperatives and also the amount of interest and the extent of participation of cooperatives in community affairs. As a result the council has set about to stimulate the cooperatives' sense of responsibility in civic matters. A survey of cooperatives in the State has also been made to obtain data on their strength and size. The information is to be used for advertising and educational purposes.

Pamphlets and circulars are sent to managers of cooperatives to aid them in conducting better annual meetings. Officials have been encouraged to prepare and keep up to date histories of their organizations.

A speakers' bureau is developing and it is planned to have a representative from each county council who will be available and competent for speaking engagements. Some co-op manager discussion clubs have been formed to discuss current cooperative problems.

Through the county councils, the State council has built up cooperative unity among the various types of cooperatives. All four of the farm organizations and most of the wholesale and terminal cooperatives in the State have made leadership contributions. The first State-wide "Cooperative Week" was observed in 1947. The council took the lead in preparing special cooperative programs setting forth the history and achievements of cooperatives in the State. The purpose of "Cooperative Week" is to further public relations, to acquaint local people with the practices of cooperatives and the services which they offer, and to further cooperative unity.

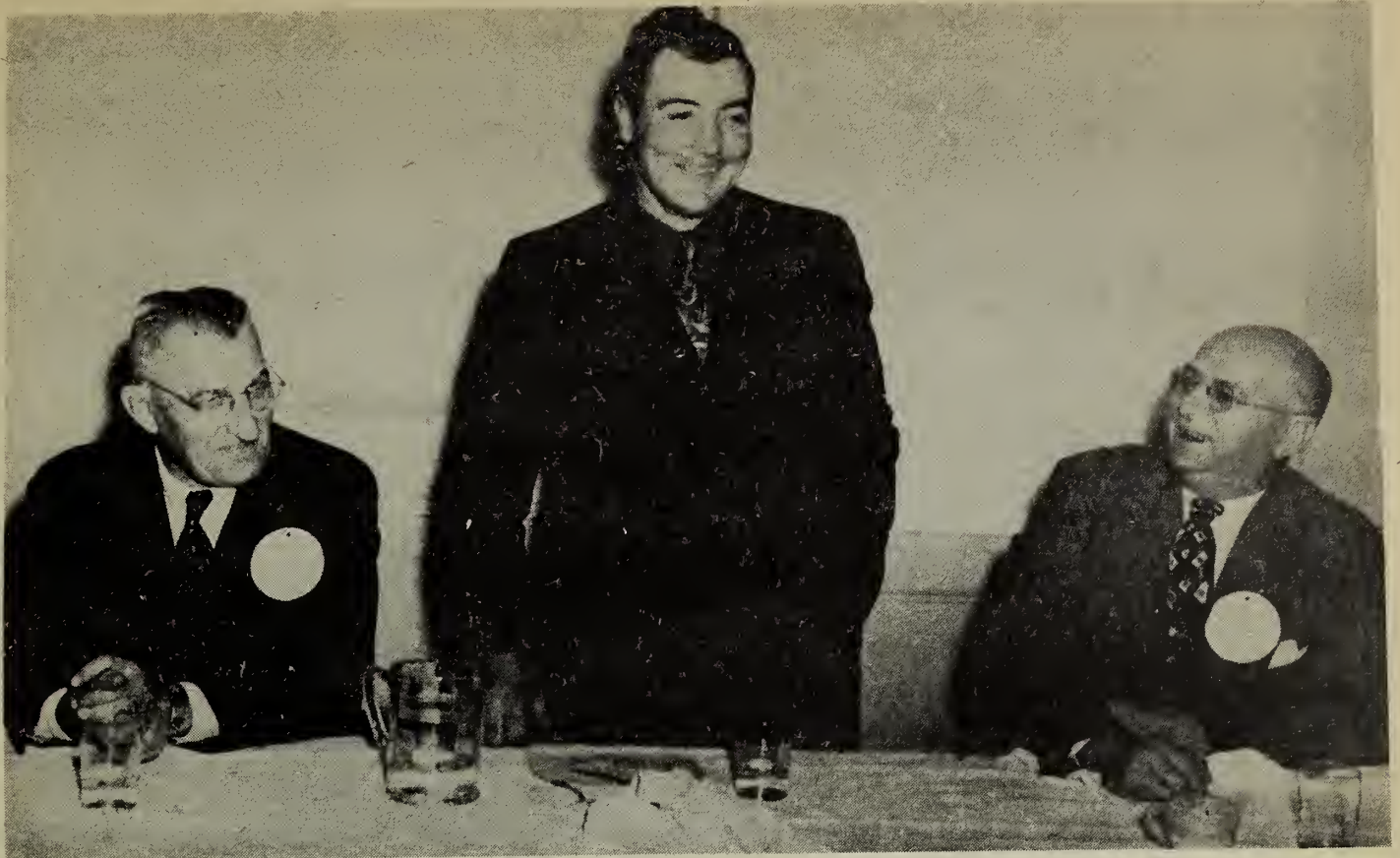
The council arranged for all farmers' cooperatives to have their exhibits together in a cooperative building at the State Fair. All the cooperatives in the State could exhibit, and the building would provide an informational booth on cooperative business.

One of the fundamental principles of the Nebraska council is the "development of a cordial and mutually profitable attitude between an organization and its public." Friendly relationships have been established with the Chancellor of the State University, the faculty of the College of Agriculture, The Nebraska State Grange, The Nebraska Farm Bureau, and the Farmers' Union. Friendships also have been established with the leaders of the American Institute of Cooperation, the American Institute of Accountants, the Farm Credit Administration, and many other organizations.

The council is a member of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. It also is a voting member of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and of the National Association of Cooperatives.

Meetings with business men and officers of civic organizations are arranged by the council to get a better understanding of "the other fellow's problems" and the general attitude toward farmer cooperatives. Through these meetings the council learns that "public opinion of cooperatives is formed by the 'public manners' of each cooperative in its own community." On the other hand speakers from the council accept all invitations to appear on the programs of civic organizations.

In addition to news items and articles, the council is contributing a monthly column to several farm papers in the State. Key people in all communities are on the council's mailing list for cooperative information pamphlets and educational material.



Friendly relationships are the outcome of dinner meetings arranged by the Nebraska Cooperative Council to bring businessmen and co-op people together. Toastmaster Paul Robertson, a farmer, secretary and director of the Madison Cooperative Creamery, Mayor Glen A. Riecker (left) of Norfolk and Earl C. Burdic, president of the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, prove this at a meeting in Norfolk, November, 1937.

The secretary of the council is in constant touch with the activities of the Nebraska legislature, and reliable information on agricultural cooperatives is furnished all candidates for public office. Through the two national associations of cooperatives, the council keeps informed on all legislation at the national level that is of interest to cooperatives.

Considerable efforts and planning by a group of farmers, managers, and cooperative leaders went into the organization of the Nebraska council. The initial movement was made in October 1945 and on April 25, 1946, the affairs of the organization were turned over to the county councilors to begin operation.

The Nebraska council was developed from the bottom up with the local associations as the foundation blocks. The basic unit in the organization is the county cooperative council. Any county having four or more members in the State council may organize one of these units. The county council heads up the cooperative movement in the county and works with the State council on all local problems.

Each county council is represented on the State council by one councilor, or alternate, elected from the district by the active members. The councilors have full power in conducting the affairs of the council, each councilor having one vote. The business of the council is carried on by

a board of seven directors elected by and from the councilors. Four of the members must be farmers. The board meets monthly, and the councilors meet 3 times a year.

The members, who are local associations, have the responsibility of financing the State council, but they receive assistance from associate members, wholesale and terminal cooperatives.

The council employs an executive secretary and an organizational director.

STATE COUNCILS NOT NOW ACTIVE

State councils of cooperatives have in the past operated in other States but have become inactive. The Arkansas Council for Agriculture, formed about 1928, was reorganized in 1931. No definite or constructive program was developed and, after about 5 years, activities were suspended.

The membership of the Arkansas council consisted largely of rice and cotton marketing associations. Some educational work was done among cooperatives, but the council had no provisions for funds to carry on extensive work. Several member associations supplied the necessary funds to form a speakers' bureau which was to furnish speakers for luncheon clubs, civic organizations, farmers' meetings, and other groups to further cooperative marketing. The council cooperated to some extent in holding a cooperative marketing school.

The organization did not maintain any office personnel. At one time the manager of the Arkansas Farm Bureau devoted some time to the business affairs, and the extension economist of the Extension Department of the University of Arkansas served as secretary to the council.

The Kentucky Cooperative Council was organized in 1935, and was active for about 5 years. Lack of interest on the part of member cooperatives caused it to become inactive. In June 1944, some of the local cooperative leaders considered reviving the organization. A committee was formed to work out a program and build up the membership, but nothing materialized.

Three organizations - Indiana Cooperative Marketing Council, Missouri Cooperative Council, and the Federation of Iowa Farm Organizations - were set up in 1931, but they ceased to function after a short period of activity. The Iowa Council of Cooperation mentioned earlier in this report was formed in Iowa in 1944, but cooperatives in the other two States have no councils at this time.

Interest in forming State councils has been noticed recently in New Jersey and Delaware.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations was not included in this report, since its program is much broader than that of the groups discussed and its membership is made up of all types of farm organizations.

The New York State Conference Board of Farm Organizations has been interested in furthering cooperatives and has done some work which has benefited them. In 1947 some steps toward the organization of a State council of cooperatives were taken by leaders in New York State, but as yet no organization has been set up.

